



Health and Social Services in Reading 1967 & 1968



part I

HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the years 1967 & 1968

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A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t : to Fairey Surveys Ltd. , for the photograph on the front cover.

Health Committee

DECEMBER 31st, 1967

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (Alderman Francis Taylor)

Aldermen:

Alice Jeannette Burrows
(Chairman)

Edith Morris

Councillors:

Arthur Henry Baker
Ivy Silvia Blagrove
William Ewart Bowyer
Iris Bozier Butcher
David Herbert John Gallagher
(Vice-Chairman)
Michael James Hill

John Ernest Parsons
Kathleen Lucy Sage
Jim Townsend
Peter Harold Watkins
Henry George Wheeler
Herbert Williams

Co-opted Members of the Committee:

John Edmund Keir Moore, BM, B.CH.
Ronald Alfred Over

Cyril Francis Wright, MRCS,
LRCP.

DECEMBER 31st, 1968

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (Alderman Mrs. Edith Morris)

Aldermen:

Alice Jeannette Burrows
(Chairman)

William John Allum

Councillors:

Arthur Henry Baker
Ivy Silvia Blagrove
William Ewart Bowyer
Arthur Kenneth Clark
Michael James Hill
Michael Frank Hooper

Kathleen Lucy Sage
Jim Townsend
Peter Harold Watkins
Henry George Wheeler
Herbert Williams

Co-opted Members of the Committee:

John Edmund Keir Moore, BM, B.CH.
Ronald Alfred Over

Cyril Francis Wright, MRCS,
LRCP.

Staff at December 31st, 1968

Medical Officer of Health:

A. Gatherer, MD, DPH, D.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. V. Griffin, MB, BS, DPH. (Resigned 30.9.67)

D. F. Rowlands, MB, BS, DPH, D.Obst.R.C.O.G. (Commenced 1.11.67)

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health & Senior School Medical Officer:

M. F. H. Bush, MB, BS, MRCS, LRCP, DCH, DPH. (Resigned 31.5.67)

E. A. Fisher, M.SC, MB, B.CH, BAO, D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health & School Medical Officers:

B. D. Cooper, MB, BS, DPH. (Resigned 31.5.67)

V. Fraser, MB, BS, MRCS, LRCP.

M. G. H. Rogers, MA, BA, MB, B.CH, DCH, DPH.

A. D. Wedderspoon, MB, BS.

E. F. H. Parry, MB, BS, DPH. (Commenced 2.1.67)

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity & Child Welfare:

A. J. H. Hardy, MRCS, LRCP, M.R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McIlvenna, LRCP, LRCS, LRFPS.

Public Analyst:

F. A. Lyne, B.SC, FRIC.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. Green, FRSH, FAPHI.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. Syrad, ARSH, MAPHI.

Principal Assistant Public Health Inspector (Housing):

A. D. E. Harding, MAPHI.

Public Health Inspectors:

Senior Inspectors:

R. W. Bashford

M. Carter

D. V. C. Cooper

J. Cowburn (Resigned 7.4.68)

A. J. Cullen

J. Handby

M. Jacob

(Resigned 28.2.67)

L. H. Larrad

(Resigned 14.3.67)

G. T. Parsons

(Commenced 6.5.68)

District Public Health Inspectors:

R. C. Gosling

J. J. McLaren

(Resigned 8.1.67)

H. Mortimore

K. C. Potts

(Commenced 23.9.68)

Staff (continued)

Principal Nursing Officer:

Miss E. P. Few, SRN, HV. Admin. Cert. (from 1.4.68)

Deputy Principal Nursing Officer/Nursing Officer (District Nursing):

Miss A. M. Edwards, SRN, SCM, HV, QN.

Superintendent Health Visitor:

Miss E. P. Few, SRN, HV. Admin. Cert. (to 31.3.68)

Nursing Officer (Health Visiting):

Miss J. Foulds (commenced 1.8.68)

Group Advisers:

Miss B. M. White

Miss T. Orpin

Field Work Instructors:

Miss S. R. Jones

Miss M. Howell (from 1.10.67)

Miss S. Hansford (from 12.2.68)

Miss M. Grant (from 12.2.68)

Health Visitors:

*Mrs. J. Ackroyd

Miss T. Hayward

Mrs. A. Allison

(commenced 16.9.68)

(Part-time, retired 10.12.67)

*Miss P. Honeyball

*Miss J. Baldrian

*Mrs. D. Howman

(resigned 30.9.67)

(Part-time, commenced 2.10.67)

*Mrs. J. Beattie (Part-time)

Mrs. G. Langdon

Miss A. Boulton

(commenced 16.9.68)

(commenced 29.11.68)

Miss H. Mortimer

*Mrs. J. Crawford

(Part-time, commenced 2.10.67)

(resigned 31.10.67)

*Mrs. B. Nevitt

*Miss A. Ellis

(resigned 10.3.67)

(commenced 11.9.67)

*Miss E. Overton

Mrs. M. Evans

(resigned 31.3.68)

(Part-time, resigned 28.2.67)

*Miss P. Spain

Mrs. E. Fowler

(commenced 11.9.67)

(Part-time, commenced 1.5.67)

*Miss M. Williamson

*Miss D. Fuckner

(commenced 11.12.67)

* Combined Health Visitor & School Nurse

Premature Baby Sister:

Mrs. E. Halfacre

Tuberculosis Visitors:

Miss M. M. Gibson

Mrs. G. M. Rake

Staff (continued)

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer:

Mrs. M. E. Neal
(resigned 21. 6. 68)

Miss E. C. Marsh
(commenced 1. 10. 68)

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

Miss F. Mcacham, SRN, SCM. (resigned 24. 1. 68)

Nursing Officer (Midwifery):

Miss E. J. Odell (from 3. 5. 68)

Domiciliary Midwives:

Mrs. E. Alder
(resigned 30. 4. 68)
Miss J. Argyle
Miss E. Charnell
Miss B. F. Coates
Mrs. S. Edwards
(commenced 1. 11. 68)
Miss M. Fox
Miss P. Garrett
(commenced 1. 4. 68)
Miss V. Garrigan
Mrs. E. Gill
(Part-time,
commenced 7. 10. 68)
Mrs. F. Goodwin
(Part-time,
commenced 7. 10. 68)

Miss M. Hall
(resigned 22. 9. 68)
Miss F. Holland
Miss P. Joyce
(resigned 21. 9. 68)
Miss B. Loye
Mrs. E. Macfarlane
(Part-time,
commenced 17. 6. 68.
resigned 20. 12. 68)
Miss J. E. Mewse
(commenced 1. 5. 67)
Miss M. J. Nelson
Miss E. J. Odell
(to 2. 5. 68)

Miss E. Pike
(resigned 31. 3. 67)
Miss M. Pointer
(resigned 22. 9. 68)
Miss T. E. J. Shipp
(resigned 30. 6. 68)
Mrs. N. Stephenson
(Part-time,
commenced 3. 9. 68)
Miss H. Stevenson
(commenced 2. 12. 68)
Mrs. Y. M. Trottier
Miss E. Xinomilou
(resigned 30. 6. 68)

Day Nursery:

Holybrook House:

Miss S. G. Clarke (Matron)

Principal Social Worker (Mental Health):

D. L. Rugg (commenced 2. 12. 68)

Senior Mental Welfare Officers:

C. E. House

Mrs. J. M. Norwood

Mrs. A. J. Tregillus

Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:

V. A. Landor

D. A. Horn
(resigned 31. 3. 67)

Miss M. Woods

Administrator:

B. F. Hampson, ACCS.
(resigned 25. 4. 68)

L. G. Tester, DMA.
(commenced 22. 4. 69)

Staff (continued)

Domestic Help Service:

Organiser:

Mrs. H. A. Finch

Assistant Organisers:

Miss M. Churchill

Mrs. L. R. Russell
(Part-time)

Miss P. A. E. Edwards

Training Centres:

Supervisors:

A. H. Allen

Mrs. T. Bonewell
(commenced 9.1.67)

Mrs. R. English
(deceased 29.12.68)

Blind Welfare Officer:

Miss M. L. Lowe

Home Teacher for the Blind:

Mrs. M. E. Hodge

D. A. C. Parker
(resigned 31.3.67)

P. Fisher (Trainee)
(commenced 18.9.67)

Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:

Mrs. J. D. Snow

Welfare Officer:

Geriatrics:

Mrs. F. M. E. Ford

Industrial Centre Manager:

S. O. Walker

Head Occupational Therapist:

Miss J. Stuart Hawkins

Occupational Therapist:

Miss M. M. Malony
(commenced 3.7.67)

Administrative Assistant:

D. H. Comerford

Staff (continued)

Old People's Homes:

"Woodlands"

J. E. Haynes (Superintendent)

Mrs. D. Haynes (Matron)

"Wychcotes" and "Warren House"

Mrs. E. J. Ablett (Superintendent)

"Parkhurst"

Mrs. F. B. McAdam (Superintendent)

"Southern Hill"

Miss A. Y. Keegan (Superintendent)

"Arthur Clark"

Mrs. R. H. Davies (Superintendent)

"Alice Jenkins"

Mrs. G. R. Meredith (Superintendent)

"Edward Hughes"

Miss H. E. Nolan (Superintendent)

"Dysons Wood"

Mrs. V. M. Gibbons (Superintendent)

"Alice Burrows"

Mrs. C. Greenwood (Superintendent)
(commenced 1. 11. 67)

Bristol and West House,
173/4 Friar Street,
Reading.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

The fundamental aim of the public health services is closely linked to that of local government itself. The full potential can best be realised in the planning and creation of a community suited to the particular needs of all those who live there. In this process, the health services are inevitably involved, because disease so frequently results from the interaction between the individual and some aspect of his environment. Prevention also in the first place usually involves some modification of that environment. A new local government therefore, charged with the assessment of the needs of its people and with the development of a society which promotes their well-being, has the unique opportunity to translate the dream of prevention into reality.

Disease however seldom affects only the patient: its repercussions eddy outwards through the family to the wider community beyond. Part of any development plan must therefore be the co-ordination of all caring services so that the ill effects of these repercussions can be minimised.

In this complex pattern of preventive and supportive services, medicine is only one of several disciplines involved. It is nevertheless essential that it remains involved, an equal partner in the team with the planner, the architect and the social scientist. Whatever reorganisation of the health and social services results, it must ensure a continuing and close working relationship between health and all other locally provided services. Otherwise, the primary prevention of disease and the comprehensive care of the sick and handicapped will be all the more difficult to achieve.

When change is so much in the air, it is easy to assume that the present services are useless and all in need of alteration. This is far from the case, as I hope this report will show. The work described here, involving to a varying extent several departments of the authority, should give a total impression of reasonably efficient, certainly kindly and co-operative team work.

There is indeed much for which we should be grateful. As measured by the vital statistics, the two years covered by this report were reasonably satisfactory - 1967 especially produced exciting figures, including the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded for the town, and a perinatal mortality rate which had dramatically improved over the previous two years.

Both years produced some problems as far as infectious diseases were concerned; the outbreak of tuberculosis at a school is reported and we had also to spend time in the investigation of typhoid cases and contacts.

We now have an increasing number of young parents who have grown up free from the memory of diphtheria and a decade has elapsed since the last case of poliomyelitis. The problem now is to maintain interest in the effective preventive techniques now available, and it is disappointing to find that a substantial number of children are still denied the protection which immunisation can so easily provide.

There was one interesting although small food poisoning outbreak, which was carefully investigated and where oysters seem to be the food implicated.

In the field of child health, the careful review of the "at risk register" approach to the early detection of handicapping conditions was completed by Dr. Rogers and two papers published. As a result, the register has been discontinued and a new system involving the follow-up of "high risk" babies in close co-operation with the hospital paediatricians together with a screening of all babies is being developed. The register has not been entirely wasteful, because it has undoubtedly helped to impress on all staff the principles of the "at risk" concept, and our child health services have benefitted as a result.

The administrative structure of the community nursing services was considerably altered during this period. The three branches of the service now come under the unified control of a Chief Nursing Officer, and a programme to bring the nurses together into health teams at field level has commenced.

There were other noteworthy changes in the nursing services. After a trial of a liaison scheme with health visitors, it was agreed that full attachment was a better arrangement and the attachment of health visitors and district nurses to general practitioner groups has started with encouraging results. There are problems of course in adapting to new ways of working and in nurturing new contacts, but the good will of the family doctors involved and the skill and willingness to change in the nurses has been most impressive.

Relationships with the general practitioners of the town have never been better. A computer scheme for immunisation was introduced and is working extremely well. After discussions concerning the joint use of facilities, two groups of doctors are now using local authority premises as branch surgeries. Much of the credit for these developments in co-operation is due to the encouragement from the Reading Executive Council and especially from the Local Medical Committee, which continues to supply two useful co-opted members to our health committee and which has in addition set up a standing sub-committee where matters of mutual interest between the authority's services and the family doctors can be discussed.

The links between the hospital and community services are also growing in number and closeness. In some fields, such as chest diseases, it has always been so, and the work involved in investigating the outbreak

of tuberculosis at a local school showed again the value of these links in times of crisis. The comments of the consultant physician on this outbreak included in the report are fully justified and we now have a better scheme to ensure as far as possible that all teachers are aware of the importance of regular chest X-rays.

In certain other fields, such as paediatrics and diabetes, links between hospital and community have thrived due to the use of liaison health visitors. At the same time, the hospital and community social workers have come together more regularly and informally to improve even further their inter-communications. Towards the end of 1968, the hospital authorities generously offered to supply a "local authority room" at the Royal Berkshire Hospital which our staff can use as a 'pied a terre'. I am sure that these developments and others already at the planning stage will bring about a functional integration of caring services that will greatly benefit the patient and his family.

The midwifery services are changing rapidly. The attention given to problems of our relatively high perinatal mortality rates in the early 1960's produced a redefinition of the categories for booking mothers for hospital confinement, and at the same time the introduction in 1967 of planned early discharge has brought hospital and domiciliary midwives closer than ever. This was productive in 1968 with the start of the "Dellwood new scheme" in which our midwives follow certain of their patients into the general practitioners unit, deliver them there, and continue their care at home after very early discharge, working throughout very closely with the Dellwood staff and with the family doctors.

The control of certain diseases is still very difficult despite the advent of simple and effective therapeutic measures. Venereal diseases continue to be a problem locally as well as nationally and the important comments by the physician in charge of the treatment centre deserve close attention.

In the field of health education, the main emphasis remains the day to day efforts of the health visitors in the home and in clinics and schools to encourage the highest standards of family health. It has now been agreed that the health and education departments should jointly set up a health education unit, and progress will be made as finances permit.

Some attention was paid to problems of drug dependency. Meetings with head teachers and police were held and a small exhibition was set up in the Town Hall to encourage a more enlightened and sophisticated attitude to medicines as a whole. This exhibition was planned with the support of the local pharmacists and of the Berkshire health department. It is however obvious that continuing attention is necessary to this relatively new problem so as to prevent if possible drugs abuse getting a grip on an unsuspecting community.

The social welfare services continued the uphill task of trying to cope with the seemingly perpetual rise in demand for all services. Residential

care of the elderly received a welcome boost in the opening of the Alice Burrows home and the inclusion in this home of some short-stay facilities has been of inestimable value to many hard pressed families in the town in helping them care at home for their aging relatives. Three other developments in the services for the elderly are well worthy of mention. Firstly, the appointment of part-time nurses as Health Assistants, who work with the health visitors but also with the senior social worker, has greatly increased the number of visits paid to old people living at home. Secondly, experience has now been gained in the provision of sheltered housing for the old, a joint venture with the housing committee providing the houses, specially planned by the architect for the purpose, and with our department supplying the warden and other supporting services; so far, results have been good. Finally, the appointment of Dr. Boucher for one session per week as advisor in geriatric services has already made its useful mark on our services.

The major problem remains the staffing situation in the homes, and I must pay due credit to the staff who really cope with a difficult situation with great competence and high standard of care.

By the end of 1967, the new kitchen for the Meals on Wheels service was in operation and a luncheon club also started. Here again the great benefits derived from statutory and voluntary co-operation were clearly demonstrated. The W.R.V.S. continue to staff, organise and deliver the meals, although the authority now gives more direct financial support. The kitchen was equipped by a substantial gift from one local charity while another voluntary organisation furnished the day room. Yet another group supplied the mini-bus we use for the luncheon club. Altogether, a very pleasing example of joint effort and good will.

The new type of pre-cooked frozen meal was introduced with remarkable success as far as the recipients were concerned. However the essential aim of the Meals on Wheels is to provide nourishment to those no longer able to prepare meals for themselves, and so a careful research project was undertaken to compare the nutritional values at time of consumption of the old traditional meals with the new type meals. The results will be of value in assessing this new scheme.

We have continued to work happily with many other voluntary organisations and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the ready assistance which these volunteers give. Family planning services for example, are largely provided for us by the local branch of the F.P.A. They have also greatly helped in setting up our own family welfare service, which aims at providing help to the small but highly deserving group of families who find it difficult to make use of other facilities. Again, one local society raised money which enabled us to send a number of handicapped children on a successful and valuable summer holiday. Finally, we have had during the two years very valuable support from the Community Service Volunteers organisation, who supplied a C.S.V. to work in our homes, in the special schools, and also in the organisation of community service by senior school children.

The mental health services show at last real signs of progress. The social worker team jointly provided by Fair Mile Hospital and ourselves has started with the appointment of a principal social worker for mental health. Close working links with the Reading team of psychiatrists are producing results. The new adult training centre is now planned and approved, with building to commence in 1969. The junior centre, Wakefield Lodge, reached a very low ebb at the end of 1968 with major problems of staffing, transport and space, and with the tragic death by road accident of the supervisor: however, the Health Committee considered a detailed report of all these difficulties, and I am pleased to say that at the time of writing, this school for mentally handicapped children has improved beyond recognition as a result of the decisions taken and the efforts of the staff. More of the staff are now fully trained than ever before and the standard of service is one with which we can feel satisfied.

The public health inspectors have also suffered from staff recruitment problems and yet the report of their work is most satisfactory and a credit to them. Progress in atmospheric pollution control had to be slowed due to the financial situation. Housing continues to demand close attention and food hygiene work is given as much attention as possible. A successful re-organisation of the meat inspection service was undertaken.

The above comments are necessarily brief and selective. It gives me great satisfaction to record the efforts of the staff. We are all conscious of the need to run our services as efficiently as possible and a series of occasional meetings for section heads on management techniques has started. The return of Dr. Rowlands from the local government administration course at Birmingham University has proved of great value in introducing new ideas and new methods of working. One noticeable feature of the meetings we have held is a continuing willingness of staff to work together and this augurs well for the future.

This report is the second in which I have tried a slightly different approach in the production of the annual report. It covers two years and includes a lengthier introductory letter: despite this, there has been marked savings in staff time and in cost of preparation, as well as allowing a broader look at the trends in our services.

It remains for me a great pleasure to thank the Chairman and members of Health Committee for the continual full support you give myself and the staff.

A. GATHERER

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1969.

Health and Other Statistics

	1967	1968
Area	9,106 acres	9,106 acres
Population (estimated June 1967) . . .	126,380	127,330
Marriages	1,170	1,251
Rateable Value	£7,334,466	£7,585,260
Product of Penny Rate	£29,402	£30,637
Cost of Services administered by Health Committee and Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee		
	£603,109	£649,350

BIRTHS

(1967 figures in brackets)

	1967	1968	Male	Female	Rate
Live and Stillborn	2,410	2,420	1,240 (1,243)	1,180 (1,167)	
Stillborn	35	40	20 (19)	20 (16)	16.53 (14.52) per 1,000 live and stillborn birth
Live births	2,375	2,380	1,220 (1,224)	1,160 (1,151)	18.69 (18.79) per 1,000 population
Legitimate live births	2,159	2,148	1,097 (1,119)	1,051 (1,040)	16.87 (17.08) per 1,000 population
Illegitimate live births	216	232	123 (105)	109 (111)	1.82 (1.71) per 1,000 population 9.75 (9.09) per cent of total live births

DEATHS

	1967	1968	Rate (1967 figures in brackets)
Deaths	1,318	1,428	11.21 (10.43) per 1,000 population
Due to the cancers	281	234	- -
Due to Heart and Circulatory System disease (excluding Coronary Artery Disease)	216	190	- -
Due to Coronary Artery Disease	246	333	- -
Due to Vascular lesions of C. N. S.	187	159	- -
Due to Tuberculosis (all forms)	1	5	0.04 (0.01) per 1,000 population
Maternal Mortality	Nil	2	0.83 (Nil) per 1,000 live and stillbirths
Infant deaths (under 1 year):- Total	25	40	16.81 (10.53) per 1,000 live births
Legitimate	23	34	15.83 (10.65) per 1,000 live births
Illegitimate	2	6	25.86 (9.26) per 1,000 live births
Neo-natal Mortality (under 4 weeks)	17	25	10.50 (7.16) per 1,000 live births
Early Neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week)	16	18	7.56 (6.74) per 1,000 live births
Perinatal Mortality (Still- births and early neo-natal deaths)	51	58	23.97 (21.16) per 1,000 live and stillbirths

Comparison of Statistics with those for
England and Wales
 (Reading figures adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)

1967

	Reading	England & Wales	Rate
Live Births	18.98	17.2	Per 1,000 Population
Stillbirths	14.67	14.8	Per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths
Deaths (all)	10.12	11.2	Per 1,000 Population
Deaths under 1 year	10.21	18.3	Per 1,000 Live Births

Area Comparability Factor

Births 1.01
 Deaths 0.97

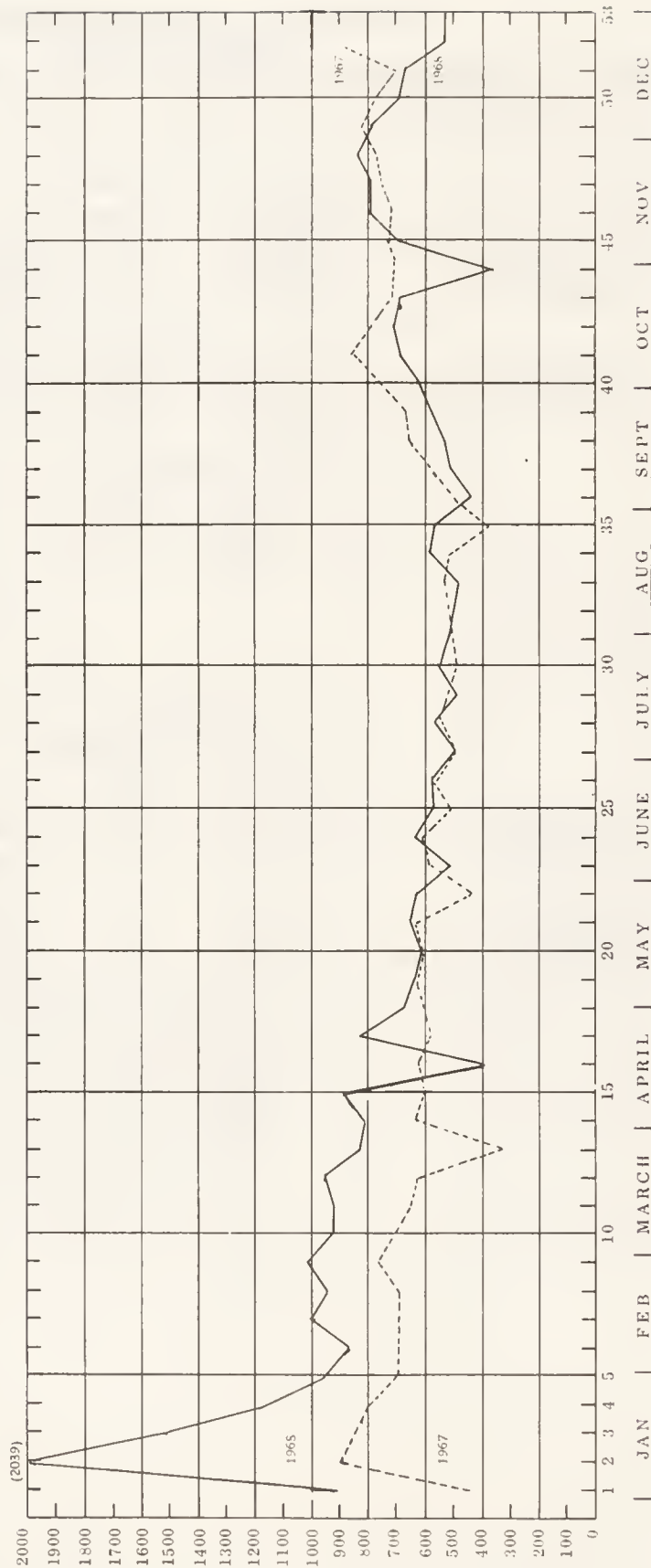
1968

	Reading	England & Wales	Rate
Live Births	18.88	16.9	Per 1,000 Population
Stillbirths	16.70	14.0	Per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths
Deaths (all)	10.87	11.9	Per 1,000 Population
Deaths under 1 year	16.31	18.0	Per 1,000 Live Births

Area Comparability Factor

Births 1.01
 Deaths 0.97

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK, 1967 & 1968 (Department of Health & Social Security Returns)



METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1968 (1967 in brackets)

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens					
	Rainfall in Inches	Temperature				Humidity
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	
January	2.91 (2.03)	55 (55)	20 (23)	44.8 (45.3)	36.64 (36.2)	86.38 (84.8)
February	.80 (2.25)	51 (56)	22 (29)	43.06 (49.42)	39.31 (36.95)	87.10 (85.71)
March	1.02 (1.93)	71 (65)	31 (32)	51.74 (54.12)	37.12 (40)	85.16 (82.19)
April	2.73 (1.69)	73 (73)	27 (28)	54.20 (54.66)	39.56 (39.5)	86.76 (83.96)
May	3.23 (4.77)	74 (81)	36 (30)	59.51 (61.45)	43. (45.9)	87. (85.25)
June	2.78 (1.91)	78 (78)	46 (42)	69.93 (60.9)	52.46 (50.56)	71.56 (81.5)
July	3.42 (2.53)	96 (86)	46 (48)	70.41 (75.32)	53.9 (56.12)	87.58 (83.16)
August	2.89 (2.21)	76 (82)	47 (48)	67.74 (71.5)	54.25 (54.5)	91.67 (89.7)
September	6.17 (2.49)	76 (72)	46 (42)	65.93 (65.7)	51.5 (51.5)	91.6 (90.1)
October	2.93 (5.34)	71 (70)	40 (34)	61.54 (59.61)	50.16 (47.7)	89.29 (86.9)
November	2.05 (1.81)	62 (61)	33 (27)	48.26 (49.46)	42.2 (37)	87.3 (89.63)
December	3.45 (2.68)	52 (55)	22 (19)	40.54 (45.48)	34.32 (34.74)	90.38 (88.22)
Year	34.38 (31.64)					

National Health Service Act, 1946

SECTION 22. CARE OF EXPECTANT & NURSING MOTHERS & CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) "At Risk" Register

The department has now gained considerable experience in keeping a register of those children thought to be at increased risk of developing handicapping conditions. Analysis of the results achieved has proved very valuable. In the light of experience the register has now been discontinued in its present form, in order to achieve better deployment of our resources in child health. A modified scheme is planned, to follow up a much smaller number of "high risk" babies. There is good evidence that all children are benefiting from the emphasis which the risk register approach placed on the early detection of handicaps.

(b) Congenital Abnormalities

The number of Reading children born in 1967 and 1968 with at least one major malformation apparent at or soon after birth was 59, and this is close to the national average, the total number of births in these two years being 4,753.

The numbers for the commoner malformations are as follows:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Anencephalus	4	3
Spina Bifida	2	10
Cardiac malformations	1	5
Cleft lip and palate	4	5
Dislocation of the hip	1	-
Talipes	7	9
Down's syndrome	1	1

(c) Register of Handicapped Pre-School Children

The register of handicapped pre-school children has now been modified so that only children whose defect is fairly certain to call for special educational provisions are included. Therefore, these figures are not directly comparable to those published previously.

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Skeletal deformities	7	6
Congenital Heart Disease	17	14
Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus	7	5
Cerebral Palsy	8	5
Retardation	14	21
Down's syndrome	8	9
Deaf	5	4
Blind, partially sighted	-	2
Total	<u>66</u>	<u>66</u>

(d) Ante-natal Clinics

As in previous years medical care of expectant mothers has been carried out at general practitioners' surgeries and hospital out-patient departments.

Patients booked for home confinements have attended clinics run by the local authority and by the domiciliary midwives. In one instance the general practitioner obstetrician and the midwife concerned, hold a joint ante-natal session.

(e) Blood Tests

Venepuncture clinics have been held as in previous years in order that general practitioners may obtain haemoglobin estimation, grouping, Rhesus factor and Khan testing for their patients.

(f) Post-natal Clinics

Post-natal examinations have been carried out either by the patient's own general practitioner or the hospital obstetric staff, and there has been no necessity for the local authority to run clinics for this purpose.

(g) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

The authority's responsibilities for this group are carried out for them by the Reading and Bradfield Moral Welfare Association and I am indebted to the Association for the following information. The pattern of work continued much as in previous years, with adoption and fostering relatively easy to arrange and with the shortage of suitable accommodation still providing a vexing problem.

Summary of cases in Reading area of the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Cases dealt with	<u>187</u>	<u>206</u>
New Maternity cases	114	140
Carried over from previous year	<u>62</u>	<u>59</u>
	<u>176</u>	<u>199</u>

New Cases. Ages.

Year	Age	14	15	16	17-20	21-30	31-40	40+	Not known	Total
1967	Mothers	-	3	9	59	30	13	-	-	114
	Fathers	1 under 17			19	38	9	5	42	114
1968	Mothers	1	4	8	66	52	10	-	-	140
	Fathers	1 under 17			65	50	10	1	13	140

New Cases. Marital Status.

Year		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Not Recorded	Total
1967	Mothers	95	16	1	2	-	114
	Fathers	40	22	-	2	50	114
1968	Mothers	117	19	-	4	-	140
	Fathers	70	38	-	2	30	140

(h) Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily at our premises at No.1 London Street. The following table gives details:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
National Dried Milk Half Cream (20oz. tin)	32	12
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20oz. tin)	2,219	2,067
Orange Juice (bottles)	13,040	10,490
Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	576	479
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	963	619

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the two years and are in addition to the preceding:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk Half Cream (16oz. packets)	792	864
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20oz. tin)	1,714	2,574
Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16oz. packets)	29,664	31,200
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	30,212	30,645
Proprietary Brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	29,520	27,120
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	1,220	1,167
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	1,019	981
Proprietary Brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)	13,200	15,360

(i) Child Health Clinics

Child health clinics have continued to function in the manner described in previous years. The attendances at the clinics were 41,795 in 1967 and 42,236 in 1968. A breakdown of these figures at the various clinics is shown in the Appendix.

(j) Family Planning Association

I am indebted to the secretary of the Reading Branch for the following information: The Family Planning Association is a registered charity, and

like most forms of social provision, the movement began as an organisation attempting to demonstrate a public need. It has now grown into a complex organisation with paid medical and administrative staff, but still depends a very great deal on voluntary assistance. Local Committees are responsible for the day to day business of clinics, which are grouped administratively into 51 Branches. At the present time there are some 750 clinics throughout the country and an average of two additional clinics are opening each week.

The services offered (available to both husbands and wives) are:-

Advice and instruction in the use of all conventional types of mechanical and chemical contraception.

Continuous medical supervision where hormone control is employed (oral contraceptives).

Fitting and subsequent medical supervision of patients using the inter-uterine contraceptive device.

Sales, both at the clinic or by post, of all necessary supplies for registered patients.

Pre-marital advice and instruction.

Cervical cytology.

Only medical staff with specialist training are employed by the Association and the Reading Clinic is a registered medical training centre for all contraceptive techniques. An increasing number of G.P.s are requesting F.P.A. training in addition to the doctors and nurses wishing to work in F.P.A. clinics.

Statistical Schedule relating to the Reading Clinic

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
No. of patients making at least one visit	2,881	2,365
New patients registered (including pre-marital and transfers from other F.P.A. clinics)	1,418	1,248
<u>Source from which patient came</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Hospital	17	13
Local Authority	39	17
Friend or Patient	451	461
Family Doctor	317	295
F.P.A. Transfers	336	259
Other sources: Press, etc.	260	203
<u>Age at first visit</u>		
Under 20 years	107	129
20 - 24	368	312
25 - 29	276	233
30 - 34	172	151
Over 34	159	164

<u>Number of pregnancies at first visit</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
None	357	392
1	182	145
2	268	231
3	154	117
4	72	53
5	24	31
6	12	13
Over 6	13	7
<u>Cytological smears taken</u>	298	447
<u>Clinic sessions held</u>	345	332
<u>Doctor sessions</u>	506	491

A Family Planning Association Clinic opened in January, 1968 at the Tilehurst Clinic and although making a steady increase during the year, the patient build-up was not as rapid as had been originally anticipated, many people still preferring the centrally placed clinic.

(k) Family Welfare Clinic see Section 24. Health Visiting.

(l) Care of Premature Infants see Section 24. Health Visiting.

(m) Daily Minding Scheme see Section 24. Health Visiting.

(n) Day Nursery see Section 24. Health Visiting.

(o) N.S.P.C.C.

I am indebted to Mr. R. H. Le Page, the Senior Inspector, for the following information on the work of the Society in this area: Once again I have to report a very successful period and in only one case did I have to resort to Juvenile Court Action.

There is a slight increase in the instance of leaving children alone, but in no case did my warnings go unheeded.

Summary: The number of new cases during 1967 were 83 and 47 in 1968.

The co-operation between my Society and all Statutory Bodies continues to be of the very highest and I take this opportunity of thanking all who helped my work along so well.

(p) Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children

During 1967 253 pre-school children and 15 mothers attended the clinics for dental treatment and 442 pre-school children and 26 mothers attended in 1968. This increase is mainly due to the opening in February, 1967 of a new dental clinic at Southcote.

At all the dental clinics the dentist and the oral hygienist have been active in giving instruction to mothers in the dental care of their young children. We have had much help in this part of our work from the health visitors who have been assiduous in the exhibition of posters and cabinet displays in the main halls at their clinics.

Forms of dental treatment provided

	Expectant and Nursing Mothers		Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental service	
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Number treated	15	26	253	442
Number of teeth filled	37	101	68	95
Teeth extracted	29	77	306	397
General anaesthetics administered	-	3	96	172
X-rays taken	-	-	6	6
Treated by oral hygienist	8	13	10	24
Fitted with dentures	11	17	-	-

SECTION 23. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY Five midwives are taking part in a double blind survey of the drug FORTRAL, an analgesic claimed to be as effective as Pethedine and evidently non-addictive.

Planned early discharges from Battle Hospital began on 1st March, 1967. Patients are visited in the ante-natal period and given details of preparations for home-coming with the new baby, if home conditions are satisfactory. All patients discharged within 48 hours of delivery are escorted home by a midwife.

All except three midwives witnessed infiltration of perineum and they are attending Battle Hospital again for this purpose.

Dellwood Maternity Home - New Plan

A new scheme was commenced in August, 1968 whereby patients could book a Domiciliary Midwife as for a home confinement, and when in labour go to Dellwood for delivery, attended by her own midwife and if mother and baby were both satisfactory, return home within a few hours. This gives the patient the advantages of the personal attention of her midwife, combined with delivery in a Maternity Unit where there is a telephone and other trained staff on the premises if a need for these should arise. A close working association with Dellwood Maternity Home has been established and we are very grateful for their co-operation and help in this new venture.

The opening of the new Maternity Unit at the Royal Berkshire Hospital has provided an opportunity for closer links to be forged between hospital and local authority staffs and the strengthening of these will be welcomed by all.

There were 23 pupil midwives trained during 1967 and 22 in 1968.

Year	Total confinements	Domiciliary confinements	%
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1960	2,062	965	46.8
1965	2,493	873	35.0
1966	2,522	872	34.5
1967	2,325	674	29.0
1968	2,378	521	21.9

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
No. of Bookings	1,007	784
No. of Nursings	17,466	15,478
No. of Ante-natal visits	5,060	4,282
No. of attendances at ante-natal clinics	6,031	4,912

Vettings

Domiciliary decision	433	306
N. H. S. beds allocated	514	329
Others	-	136
Total vettings	<u>947</u>	<u>771</u>
Planned early discharges	234	223
Unplanned early discharges (Since March, 1967)	<u>254</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>488</u>	<u>689</u>

Stillbirths - 1967

Battle Hospital

Anencephalic, spina bifida, prematurity.	1
Massive APH and PPH.	1
IUD and prematurity.	1
Hypertensive mother, anaemia, Rh antibodies	1
Rh incompatibility	4
IUD placental insufficiency APH.	1
IUD incompetent cervix, repetitive abortion.	1
Placental insufficiency.	8

Stillbirths - 1967 (continued)

Battle Hospital

Anencephalic.	1
APH and inter-cranial haemorrhage.	1
Malpresentation mother pyelonephritic.	1
Diabetes of mother.	2
Placental insufficiency and PET.	1
APH failed version of breech, hypertensive mother.	1
Accident of mother two weeks prior to term.	1
Unbooked, no ante-natal care. ? reason for SB.	1
Post maturity.	2
Placental insufficiency, Rh incompatibility, hypertensive mother.	1
No known cause.	1
APH.	1
Diabetes and severe PET IUD.	1
Hydrops foetalis.	1

Dellwood

Congenital heart lesion.	1
IUD cause unknown.	1

Domiciliary

Gross abnormality (Refused hospital treatment and admission had BBA purposely).	1
Impacted shoulders (Patient did not send for midwife in labour).	1

Total	38
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Stillbirths - 1968

Battle Hospital

Premature labour - prolapsed cord.	1
Hydrocephalic.	2
Primary Atelectasis	1
Grossly deformed foetus	1
Anencephalic, Spina Bifida, severe Talipes	1
I.U.D. due to Placental Insufficiency	1
Prolapsed cord when 3 hrs. in labour	1
No known cause	9
Probably hypertensive with superimposed pre- eclampsia no ante-natal care. Not booked.	1
Hydrocephalic - Spina Bifida	1
Concealed accidental Haemorrhage	1
Placental Insufficiency	3

Stillbirths - 1968 (continued)

Battle Hospital

Anencephalic	1
Marked hypertension with superimposed Toxaemia	1
A. P. H. Prolapsed macerated arm	1
Rhesus incompatibility	1

Dellwood

Prolapsed Cord	1
Premature - Spina Bifida	1
Anencephalic	2
Premature Breech	1
Hydrops Foetalis. Multiple congenital deformities	1
I.U.D. Small placenta (12 ounces)	1
Post Mature - no other cause	1
Falx - Tentorial Tears	1

Domiciliary

Breech - delay with after coming head	1
I.U.D. - Evidence of accidental A.P.H.	1
Possible cause. Placental insufficiency. Mild P.E.T. 36 weeks.	1

Total	39
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Maternal Deaths

There were no maternal deaths during 1967. In 1968 two deaths were recorded (1 Abortion, 1 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium).

Puerperal Pyrexia

Four cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1967. One case was reported up to the 30th September, 1968. As from the 1st October, 1968 this was no longer notifiable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases were reported.

Relaxation Classes

These continued to be held at two clinics in the town on Saturday afternoons and there were 369 new members and 1,612 total attendances in 1967 and 291 new members and 1,356 total attendances in 1968.

Evening Mothercraft Classes

These were attended by 155 mothers and 107 husbands in 1967, and by 82 mothers and 57 husbands in 1968.

Coombs Test

The arrangements whereby midwives take samples of cord blood for Coombs test in Rh. negative mothers confined at home continued and 93 samples were taken in 1967 and 66 samples in 1968.

Pathological examinations on any septic focus of baby, i.e., "sticky eye".

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
No. of swabs taken of mother and baby	92	82
No significant findings	37	52
Treatment required for septic focus	55	30

SECTION 24. HEALTH VISITING The Health Visitors have worked loyally and well to maintain the high standards of service of which we are justly proud in Reading. They have carried the difficulties caused by vacant areas, taken part in surveys concerned with the service and accepted the challenges of change and new methods of working.

Throughout the year most able support has been given to the service by the School Nurses and the Health and Clinic Assistants. It is pleasing to report that the staff shortages of past years are beginning to ease at last and we look forward to a future realistic establishment based upon the best use of the skills and trainings which our staff have to offer.

Health Visitor Training School

It is my pleasure to record the opening of a Health Visitor Training School at the Reading College of Technology in September, 1967 and to welcome Miss A. Coleman, Health Visitor Tutor as a colleague. Four student health visitors were sponsored by the department to undertake training for the Health Visitor's Certificate and were successful in completing the final year of the Health Visitor's Training Course during 1968.

Family Welfare Clinics

The Family Welfare Clinic has continued its fortnightly services at the Whitley Centre but during the year it has been found necessary to open a further clinic at the Noreot Centre. During 1968 attendances were:-

Total number of mothers attending	111
Total number of attendances	310

These clinics provide an obviously much needed service to certain women in medical or social difficulties due to frequent child-bearing.

Hospital Liaisons

Links with our hospital colleagues have been strengthened. Miss S. Hansford regularly attended the Paediatric Ward round once a week in Kempton Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Staff have also regularly attended the Diabetic Children's Out-Patient clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and

have visited the homes of diabetic children in the Borough and contacted schools. Visits have been concerned with failures to keep appointments and the emotional difficulties caused by problems of adjustment by the child and his family to accept and cope with the disease.

A successful working relationship has been maintained with the Medical Social Workers of the hospital group in the after-care service.

Premature Baby Care

The special care of premature babies at home has continued with Mrs. Half-acre, premature baby Sister. With the opening of the new Maternity Unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital and the special care unit opened, there, the number of infants being discharged home requiring special care has increased.

Infants born to Indian and Pakistani mothers are frequently below the 5lbs. 8oz. weight level, therefore requiring this special care. The average discharge weight is now just under 5lbs., providing that home conditions are suitable, which means that the babies receive concentrated care for a longer period at home.

It is hoped that in 1969, further "follow-up" clinics will be introduced at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to cope with the needs of this group of infants to be supervised because of the increased risk of developmental problems.

Day Care of Children

The Daily Minding scheme has continued as in previous years. The number of visits made etc. are as follows:-

(1967 figures in brackets)

Visits	80 (126)	Registered Minders	10 (8)
Interviews	28 (27)	Approved Minders	110 (92)
Placed	57 (57)		

Section 60 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 came into force on 1st November, 1968 and amended the previous legislation of 1948.

This Section requires that from the 1st February, 1969, any person minding one or more children for reward, for an aggregate of two or more hours in the day for up to six days a week, must apply for registration. Formerly, this was only necessary when two or more children were minded for a "substantial" part of the day. The interpretation of what was meant by a "substantial" part of the day had presented some difficulty. This has meant a complete revision of the Child-Minding scheme, which also affects Nurseries, Nursery Schools and Play-groups.

The great interest in pre-school education springing up throughout the country has made more parents interested in similar opportunities for their children, and the number of playgroups and sessions held are as follows:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Number of Playgroups	14	18
Places available	310	425
Number of Day Nurseries/Nursery Schools	5	6
Places available	119	131

There were no actions taken during this period for illegal or unsuitable child-care under the Nurseries and Child-Minders Regulations Act, 1948.

Liaison with General Practice

During 1967 six health visitors participated in linkage schemes with six general practices within the town. However, since September, 1968 full attachment of both health visitors and district nurses to general practitioners has progressed rapidly and successfully.

Guy's Hospital Survey

In July/August, 1967 the health visitors took part in a survey conducted by the Guy's Hospital Department of Social Medicine. This was concerned with comparisons of work methods and time and motion studies in three towns, Reading, Oxford and Ipswich.

Staff Health Scheme

The School Nurses have assisted the Medical Officers at sessions concerned with the maintenance of good health for Local Authority employees. Staff medical examinations are undertaken, also immunological programmes and haemoglobin checks.

Private Elderly Persons' Homes

There are eight private homes for elderly persons registered within the Borough providing a total of 85 places. Cordial relations have been maintained and routine inspections carried out.

In Service Training

During the two year period, three health visitors successfully completed courses for Field Work Instructors, and four attended refresher courses.

Courses in Community Care of the Elderly have been held and many colleagues from the Health and Welfare Department joined some of the sessions and also colleagues from the Welfare Department of the Berkshire County Council.

Ante-natal Mothercraft Classes

Classes have been held regularly in six purpose-built centres as follows:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Total number of mothers attending	243	216
Total number of attendances	1,048	833

Health Visitors have continued taking parent-craft classes in the schools.

Total number of classes taken	143
No. of children receiving the Parent-craft Certificate.	31

Lectures

Lectures have been given to student nurses of the St. Birinus Group School of Nursing, Student Nursery Nurses at the Reading College of Technology, the Chiltern Nursery Nurses and the Educational Welfare Officers in-service training course.

Parents' Club

The Parents' Club held every month at Tilehurst Clinic has continued with the help of Miss S. Jones. Miss A. Ellis has led group discussions with mothers in the Caversham area in connection with the formation of a mothers' group.

Visitors to the Department

Observation visits have been arranged for student nurses from the Royal Berkshire Hospital and from Fairmile and Borocourt Hospitals.

Nursery Nurses from the Reading College of Technology and from the Chiltern Nursery Nurse training college have visited Infant Welfare Clinics and Immunisation Clinics.

Observation programmes have been arranged for health visitor students from the Royal College of Nursing, the North West Polytechnic and from the Ewell College of Technology.

A programme was arranged for three students of Nursing Administration; one from Edinburgh University and two from the Royal College of Nursing.

Medical students from St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, accompany Mrs. Halfacre on her premature baby rounds. Nurses taking the Premature Baby Care Course at Battle Hospital also spend an observation week in the department.

Student district nurses and pupil midwives have spent training days with the health visitors.

Student nurses from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children spent training days in the department.

Nursing Education

A course of lectures in Community Care was given in August and September, 1967 to third-year student nurses of the St. Birinus group school of nursing.

Chiltern Nursery Nurse Training College

Two lectures were given to the Nursery Nurse students on the services provided by the department.

A discussion group with these young students was led by the Medical Officer of Health and the Superintendent Health Visitor on the Uses and Abuses of Drugs.

Standing Working Party for Education in Personal Relationships

During 1967 the Medical Officer of Health and the Superintendent Health Visitor have served on this Working Party during the year. The latter is a member of the Cadre Course which began counselling training in December of that year.

Miscellaneous

Several talks have been given on request to the British Red Cross Society, Civil Defence Organisation, Young Wives Groups of various denominations, W.E.A. courses and others.

Pulmonary Diseases

Mrs. Rake and Miss Gibson, the two Tuberculosis Visitors, have continued to work from the Chest Clinic at Battle Hospital. They make the following report:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Total number of successful home visits	3,242	3,549
Patients on anti-tuberculosis treatment	157	136
Patients with other diseases:)		
Chronic T.B.)		
Asthma)	117	120
Chronic Bronchitis)		
Pulmonary Carcinoma, etc.)		

Out-patient clinic defaulters were also visited.

The total number of clinics attended was 254 in 1967 and 211 in 1968, which included routine follow-up of cases, B.C.G. vaccinations and contacts and school Heaf positive reactors.

Holybrook Day Nursery

Miss Clarke, Matron, reports as follows: 1967 and 1968 was a busy and eventful period for the Nursery. There were several changes in staff and new appointments included an S.R.N. and an S.E.N.

The composite experience of all the members of staff covered a wide field in child care and this widened our scope and broadened our thinking with regard to Nursery routine and planning.

Our children thrived and progressed satisfactorily. The Nursery catered for up to 50 children and we were only able to admit priority cases during this period. As many as three applicants were interviewed each week. Our waiting list stood on average at 30.

Our 1966/67 and 1967/68 Nursery Students all gained their N.N.E.B. Certificate.

In September, 1967 one of our senior staff nurses attended a four day course in Birmingham on "The day care of under fives".

Also in April, a most successful joint meeting of local authority and Hospital Nursing staff was held in the newly opened Education Centre at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The subject discussed was drug dependence and guests included teachers and social workers.

In September, 1968, several members of the staff arranged to give a series of six evening classes under the auspices of the W.E.A. on the subject of "Child Development". These were held in the Caversham Centre. There has also been participation in the courses arranged for playgroup leaders.

Cervical Cytology

The total number of cervical smears taken in 1967 was 1,002. Sessions were held at various clinics in the town. Evening clinics were attended mainly by women who were at work all day, while the afternoon sessions were more convenient for housewives who were not employed outside the home.

In 1968 there was a considerable fall in the number of women who applied for a cervical smear test and only 488 were carried out. As a result of this decline, the local newspapers co-operated in giving publicity to this service.

It is known that the risk of cervical cancer is greater in those women who have had large families. Nearly all the patients examined in our clinics, however, had three or fewer children. An attempt is to be made to discover how many women of high parity have not yet undergone a cervical smear test.

SECTION 25. HOME NURSING The major change in the District Nursing Service in 1968 was the attachment of District Nursing Sisters to General Practitioners surgeries.

It appears that this is a very satisfactory method of working for the nursing staff. The close contact with the doctors, access to patient's records, etc. makes their work very much more interesting and gives the patients a more satisfactory and complete service.

The pattern of the work remains unchanged with a large proportion of patients over 65 years of age, often living alone.

The Queen's Institute of District Nursing discontinued to function in June, 1968 after many years service to local authorities, arranging training programmes and conducting the practical and theoretical examinations for the course of district nurse training.

This was taken over by the Ministry of Health who placed responsibility on local authorities to train students in their area and arrange the examinations.

Seven student district nurses commenced the course of training in Reading in October, 1968 with a very interesting programme of lectures and visits of observation etc. arranged by Miss E. Few, Principal Nursing Officer.

Post graduate refresher courses on Practical Work Instruction were attended by two of the Queen's Nursing Sisters, one at Southampton and one with Berkshire County Council. Great benefit was derived from the five-day courses.

The district nursing staff had the opportunity of visiting the Renal Dialysis Unit at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford and found the visit full of interest. It has given them an insight into the treatment the patients give themselves in their own homes.

Our male district nurse spent one week at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in a Genito-Urinary ward observing new treatments etc. prior to being attached to a group practise.

The conversion of nurse's bedrooms at 25 Erleigh Road into flatlets for community nursing staff was completed in the autumn of 1968.

SECTION 26. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (EXCLUDING B.C.G.)

The arrangements for carrying out vaccination and immunisation have continued as in

previous years. Special sessions are arranged at the infant welfare clinics and mothers are invited to bring their children for these protective procedures.

General practitioners were employed on a sessional basis at some clinics to carry out this work. The statistics related to this service are in the Appendix.

In 1968, a total of 2,233 children were vaccinated against Measles in Local Authority Clinics, schools and by General Practitioners. There were no undue reactions and Measles vaccination has now been generally accepted by parents for their young children.

An appointment system in respect of Vaccinations and Immunisations has been put on to a computer scheme and this will provide appointments at both Child Health Clinics and at the surgeries of those general practitioners participating in the scheme. It is hoped to extend these facilities to all general practitioners in the near future.

SECTION 27. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service was inaugurated in July, 1948, and

is under the operational control of the Transport Manager and I am indebted to him for the following information:

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1958 for Borough and non-Borough duties:-

Year	Journeys	Patients	Mileage
1958	25,526	31,883	164,949
1962	39,107	42,519	185,582
1963	40,828	44,328	195,556
1964	40,118	43,453	196,049
1965	40,061	48,077	205,760
1966	45,802	48,823	217,471
1967	45,266	48,844	213,355
1968	46,842	50,662	226,802

Summary of work carried out in 1967:-

	Calls		Patients		Mileage	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
Emergency 999	2,457	1,943	2,406	1,850	13,179	7,939
All calls	42,634	36,449	46,321	39,090	197,151	127,193
Flying Squad duties	175	-	117	-	3,025	-
Stretcher cases	16,518	11,334	18,466	12,261	125,171	63,367
Sitting/Walking cases	28,748	27,058	30,378	28,679	88,184	71,765

Summary of work carried out in 1968:-

	Calls		Patients		Mileage	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
Emergency (999) Calls	2,706	2,127	2,642	2,023	14,721	8,471
Urgent and Non-Urgent Calls	43,954	37,643	47,910	40,307	208,574	138,886
Flying Squad Duties	182	-	110	-	3,507	-
Stretcher Cases	16,794	11,620	19,143	12,786	130,290	69,735
Sitting/Walking cases	30,048	28,150	31,519	29,544	96,512	77,622

1. Total all areas.

2. Non-rechargeable cases only.

The above figures do not include the considerable number of duties which are received by the Ambulance Service and passed either to the Hospital Car Service or adjacent Ambulance Services. In the majority of these duties the mileage is charged directly to the Authority financially responsible for the duty, and records of this work are not recorded in any of our tabulations.

	Patients		Milcage		Miles/Patient	
	Ambulance Service	Hospital Car Service	Ambulance Service	Hospital Car Service	Ambulance Service	Hospital Car Service
1965	48,077	10,683	205,760	81,398	4.27	7.61
1966	48,823	12,535	217,471	83,411	4.45	6.65
1967	48,844	15,778	213,355	89,786	4.36	5.69
1968	50,662	16,711	226,802	84,388	4.48	5.04

Ambulance Fleet and Personnel

At the 31st December, 1968, the fleet consisted of 12 dual purpose ambulances and one sitting case ambulance. One sitting ambulance is due for delivery from the Body Builders early in 1969.

To meet the requirements of the 24-hour service, there are six Ambulance Regulators and 30 Ambulance Driver/Attendants.

Radio Control

The installation of the replacement radio equipment has been completed, with the site of the Main Transmitter transferred to the top of the Water Tower, Park Lane, Tilehurst, giving a greater range with less interference. The reception of the transmission by the mobile ambulances is remarkably clear, with little, if any, background noise.

Service Demands

The call-out facility for the Borough Midwifery Service between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. via the Borough Ambulance Control Office continues with constant demand. A further link between the Midwifery Service and the Ambulance Service is now in operation in connection with Planned Early Discharges from the new Maternity Wing at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Appreciation

Appreciation is expressed to the following:-

The staff of the British Railways (Reading) for their ready co-operation.

The Hospital Car Service for their continued excellent service.

The British Red Cross Society for their valuable assistance in providing escorts for long journeys.

The Police and Fire Service for their contribution to the smooth working of the Ambulance Service in emergency conditions.

SECTION 28. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE & AFTER-CARE

A. Tuberculosis (see also section re Infectious Diseases)

(a) Welfare Work see Section 24 Health Visiting.

(b) The Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest. The Chairman, Councillor Williams, in his Annual Report, stressed that the Association is a partner with the Local Health Authority and the Ministry of Social Security in the effort to rehabilitate the families of those patients who suffer from T.B. and other diseases of the chest. There is no duplication of effort or relief, and friends of the Association can "rest assured that not one penny is wasted as all our efforts are concentrated on doing things and providing comforts that our two partners are unable to do because of statutory limitations."

(c) B.C.G. Vaccination see Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer.

B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus

Various items of nursing equipment and apparatus have continued to be provided on loan by this department and some 2,700 patients have been so helped during the two year period.

C. Provision of Convalescent Holidays

Convalescent holidays continued to be provided under the Council's scheme and 47 patients (39 adults and 8 children) benefited by a period of convalescence. An additional eight patients were assisted with travelling expenses only. Fares were paid for 29 escorts accompanying patients.

The department also arranged convalescent holidays for 51 persons who were financed either by themselves or from charitable sources.

The local Round Table raised £500 to provide two weeks holiday for 20 handicapped children who could not otherwise have a holiday.

Arrangements were made for holidays during May and June, 1968 when 10 physically and 10 mentally handicapped children had the opportunity, some for the first time, of a holiday and a journey to the seaside.

D. Health Education (see also section re Health Visiting, report of Chief Public Health Inspector, and report of Principal School Medical Officer)

The Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition was held in 1967 and gave the department the opportunity to display the various aspects of the work carried out. This is a very valuable exhibition since it brings to the attention of the rising generation the facilities which are available to them.

SECTION 29. HOME HELP SERVICE The work of the Home Help Service has kept to its familiar pattern, there has been a steady rise in the number of cases helped, mainly with the aged category and the weekly case load is now over 1,100 cases per week.

Many helpless, bedridden, blind and housebound old folk have received help and comfort from this service.

Bookings for help during maternity confinements have been fewer, the average number each month was 12, in 1967 the number was 17 per month.

This is probably due to the 48-hour discharge from hospital; husbands and relatives are covering the remaining time.

All requests for help have received attention with the minimum period of delay and every endeavour has been made to give service in relation to need as quickly as possible.

The increase in case loads is making adequate visiting by organisers increasingly difficult to maintain. Clerical staff has remained at the same level for many years.

Home Helps continue to show a remarkable devotion to duty and many letters of appreciation have been received from recipients and relatives.

Recruitment of suitable staff is still very difficult in this town of full employment.

A training course, which was held on one half day per week and lasted six weeks, included Home Nursing, prevention of accidents, hints on quick and sensible methods of household cleaning, cooking simple nutritious meals specially adapted for old people.

It is hoped to continue these courses in the future.

During this period many old folk have been moved into "Sheltered Housing" and the Home Help service has proved very useful in helping the old folk to pack and prepare their new homes. The Wardens of the "Sheltered Housing" are supervised by this service and I would like to report that this arrangement has worked extremely well.

The Special Laundry Service has proved invaluable where a member of the household is incontinent. Arrangements have now been made for the use of a washing machine at Durham Close Sheltered Development for occasions when a back log of laundry is found in some households.

The Bath Attendant has worked at full stretch visiting the aged and handicapped weekly to enable them to have a bath.

Thanks are due to the Health Visitors and all domiciliary services for their co-operation and help.

Mental Health Act, 1959

MENTAL ILLNESS Prevention of mental illness is an integral part of community care. The difficulty so often is that it comes to notice too late. Emphasis must be on publicity and education and increasing liaison between relatives, social workers and doctors, then many a hospital admission would be avoided.

The process of building up community services must be a gradual one. During 1967 occupational and industrial therapy have been very progressive. The setting up of Reading Industrial Trading Organisation has been a great asset and gives patients a sense of individual identity. The domestic help, the health visitor and the home nurse have all continued to play an important part - particularly with the elderly and the mentally unwell with accompanying physical handicap.

During Mental Health Week in June, 1967, a voluntary organisation - the Thames Valley Association for Mental Health - was set up. In January, 1968 the association opened a social club for discharged hospital patients and for those in the community who might benefit from such a provision. The club is a stepping stone back into the community for all who need it and can be persuaded to join.

It augurs well that there is a growing awareness of mental health problems and that a caring community is slowly but surely being built. In addition to the voluntary organisation already mentioned there are the Reading Samaritans, Hospital Leagues of Friends, Alcoholics Anonymous and the Reading Association for Handicapped Children. The important role of the volunteer cannot be over stressed. With a number of voluntary bodies such as these, together with the local authority services, there is bound to be fragmentation and duplication, which not only calls for an Organiser of voluntary work, but also group discussion and consultation, both formal and informal, for the well-being of clients and workers.

In December, 1968, the joint social work team planned in 1967 was at last formed with the St. Birinus Hospital Management Committee. The hospital based and the community based social work are now brought together with the appointment of a Principal Social Worker (Mental Health). The advantages of the joint team are:-

1. An effective communication link between hospital and community enabling the client to get a wider orientated provision for his needs.
2. The same psychiatrist and social worker can work with the client throughout the period of his need - in hospital, out-patient clinic and at home.
3. It offers the client a balanced multi-disciplinary approach to his needs.

For a town which receives a large number of persons of no fixed address - in transit or because of its' reputation for employment and hospitality - it is encouraging that only minimal problems have arisen. Sincere admiration is extended to Captain Bartlett and his staff at the Coley Street Hostel, which was opened in April, 1967 and is run so well and sympathetically by the Salvation Army. It sometimes causes us concern, though no surprise, that men are sent from other areas to seek admission there, and

that other authorities and social agencies outside the borough boundaries make use of its' excellent facilities.

The problem of finding places for the confused geriatric patient remains as great as ever. An arrangement exists whereby some of these patients are first admitted to Battle Hospital to exclude physical symptoms being the cause of their mental confusion. The consultant from Fair Mile and the local geriatrician work closely together in the matter of exchange of suitable patients as their condition warrants. A few patients have required hospital admission from our old people's homes. We are grateful to the matrons and staff for their patience and forbearance, but one seriously confused resident can cause great distress to the others, and we are pleased when an exchange with a recovered patient from Fair Mile can be effected.

Purpose built flats were allocated to two patients, one of whom is happily settled in her first real home. The other deteriorated and was moved into Part III where she could receive greater supervision. Other patients have been assisted with their housing problems, and in a few cases we have undertaken to supervise the payment of rent, to avoid eviction because of constant arrears.

Are debts the cause of illness or illness the cause of debts. The Mental Welfare Officer is all too frequently called upon to sort this one out, and to appeal in appropriate cases for statutory or voluntary assistance. Wall papering, house painting, gardening, hedge cutting! Our thanks to the Ministry of Social Security, to S.S.A.F.A. and the voluntary helpers and club members who provide a little money and a great deal of help.

THE SAMARITANS OF READING I am indebted to the Director of the Samaritans, Rev. A. C. Fryer, for the following: The Samaritans, which is centred at St. Giles' Hall, Southampton Street, maintain a continuous 24 hour service and receive emergency calls on Reading 54845 day and night. During 1967 a total of 682 calls were received, and 650 calls in 1968.

"The Samaritans exist to offer friendship and support to the lonely and the suicidal".

There has been a marked increase in "finance" as the precipitating factor bringing people to us, while compulsive gambling has appeared for the first time in the case of 3 men.

A number of people have used us in a one-contact-only manner; often by a 2 or 3 hour conversation in the middle of the night. By day several men with sexual difficulties have done the same. Other clients, like the poor, look like being always with us - again while resources permit.

The Samaritans are always looking for Volunteers prepared to offer friendship to some of the casualties of modern living.

SUBNORMALITY There has been an increase in the number of children referred for care and training. This has placed an added strain on our services, which because of the present financial situation is difficult to resolve.

Our Junior Training Centre, Wakefield Lodge, is now near to full capacity with a waiting list for next year. The situation is aggravated by the shortage of qualified teachers and by the fact that several of the experienced unqualified teachers, looking to the future, are now leaving us to undergo courses of training; and they are difficult to replace. The problems of transport for the children is mentioned in the section on Wakefield Lodge. Without a considerable increase in our budget there is no hope of rectifying this situation.

I am pleased to report that plans are in hand for a new Adult Training Centre which will provide 120 places and it is hoped that this will be completed during 1970.

With staff returning from training courses, there is a likelihood of improved staffing during 1969.

TRAINING CENTRES

Newbery Lodge

Newbery Lodge is a 'Care and Attention Unit' with places for eight children. There is a close relationship with the Cerebral Palsy Unit at Battle Hospital for physiotherapy and also speech therapy. During this period more emphasis has been laid on giving the children the maximum amount of freedom which is practicable in an attempt to stimulate them to taking an interest in their surroundings and we feel that this has been of great benefit to the children. An outing to the seaside was arranged, and was enjoyed by all and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre

At the end of 1968 there were 70 pupils attending Wakefield Lodge, an increase of 1 over the previous year.

During the two years the staff situation was not good. Apart from constant changes there was quite a considerable loss of time through sickness. The resultant effect of constant staff changes has had a detrimental effect on the training programme in the school and the problems of bad behaviour amongst the children has been very difficult to overcome. The training programme, although within the capabilities of the children, is ambitious. I do not hesitate to say that an efficient service cannot be given by so many unqualified staff, (apart from the Head Teacher, there are only 2 qualified teachers out of 10). With growing numbers it is vital in the interests of the children and the parents that the staff situation is stabilised.

Transport arrangements - The Reading Transport Department arranges services over the three routes; Whitley, Caversham and Tilehurst, picking up the trainees from both centres. The Tilehurst route has not been satisfactory for a long while and another guide has

been detailed on this coach as a safety measure. Many of our very young children are sitting on this coach for an hour or more and become over tired and very aggressive by the effect of the long journey.

Use of School Clinic - Wakefield Lodge has received excellent co-operation from the School Clinic in respect of:-

- (a) Medical Inspection.
- (b) Dental Treatment.
- (c) Routine inspection and treatment for head infections.

School Meals Service supplied daily dinners and each child has received $\frac{1}{3}$ pt. of milk per day.

Extra Remedial Treatment - 1. Speech Therapy. There are many children in need of this service, and during 1968 a speech therapist has attended the centre for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week.

2. Physiotherapy. This service was started in 1968 and provides physiotherapy for eight children.

School Outings - Many school outings were arranged, including visits to London Zoo and Airport, Littlehampton and Aldershot Swimming Pool.

Special Days - "Open Days" and "Sports Days" were organised and the Annual Christmas Parties were successful. The first Prize Day was held in July, 1968 at which the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. Morris) presented the prizes.

Training Courses - Staff have attended various Training Courses, and a course of In-Service Training was started for unqualified members of the staff.

Visits to the School - Throughout this period Wakefield Lodge has received many visitors, Doctors, Health Visitors, student nurses, student teachers, medical students, N.N.E.B. students and members of the general public.

Voluntary Help - Pupils from Leighton Park School continue to visit the school and take an active part in the classroom.

August - Play Group - The staff at Wakefield Lodge ran a Play Group as a voluntary effort during summer holidays. Selection of children was determined by the following factors:-

- 1. The need on the part of the child for continued training.
- 2. The need on the part of the parents for a certain measure of relief during the summer recess particularly where other children were home.

The school was open daily from 10.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., one member of staff being responsible for each week of opening. Voluntary helpers included three parents, three N.N.E.B. students and four schoolgirls.

Parent/Teacher Association - The Beeches, Wakefield Lodge and Newbery Lodge Parent/Teacher Association continued to organise social events and fund raising activities. Committee meetings were held and news letters were regularly sent out to all members. The continuing support of parents and friends at parent/teacher functions is very encouraging and has proved the necessity of this Association.

The Beeches Senior Training Centre

At the end of 1968 there were 61 trainees regularly attending the Centre, and training has been re-organised to form three groups:-

1. Those needing strict supervision and training in work habits.
2. Intermediate group mainly comprising young trainees who need basic social training - (3. Rs. use of public transport - hygiene).
3. Comprising trainees who now use public transport - count - write and need a more advanced form of social training.

Work has mostly consisted of light industrial packing and assembling, but during 1968 new activities in connection with the hospital C.S.S.D. department and a P.V.C. welding machine have been undertaken.

Centre transport has enabled all groups to receive social training and various outings were arranged.

The third group, in continuation of their training, were taken to a hotel at Margate for one weeks holiday where they mixed freely with other guests (normal).

The Beeches News Sheet - Editions have been printed and circulated whilst meetings held between parents and staff made great progress in the understanding of each other's problems.

Annual Holidays - These took place each year at Buckfastleigh, South Devon. The behaviour of the trainees in this new environment was very good and much information was gained from this by the staff to be used at the Centre for future training.

Christmas Party - A works party was held at the Beeches and 60 trainees attended. The entertainment was provided by the Derik and Christie Pop Group.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

For statistics see Appendix Tables 10, 11 & 12.

DIPHTHERIA For the twentieth year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in the Borough.

SCARLET FEVER There were 38 cases of scarlet fever in 1967 and 14 in 1968.

WHOOPING COUGH There were 86 cases of whooping cough in 1967 and 37 in 1968.

MEASLES There were 1,150 cases of measles in 1967 and 83 in 1968.

POLIOMYELITIS For the ninth year in succession no cases of poliomyelitis have been notified in the Borough.

FOOD POISONING In November, 1967 an outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the local University. Forty one students were affected in various degrees, about a quarter of them being extremely ill. In the majority of cases recovery was extremely rapid with no serious repercussions. Although no specific bacterial organism was isolated there was sufficient circumstantial evidence that this outbreak was connected with the eating of oysters. It seems that further research is needed into the relationship between oysters and food poisoning and it might well be that the causal organism for such outbreaks is one that is not usually suspected of causing food poisoning.

TUBERCULOSIS I am indebted to Dr. A. J. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the following information relating to an outbreak at a primary school. In April, 1967 a girl aged nine was referred to the chest clinic on account of respiratory symptoms and was found to have primary tuberculosis with a lesion in the left lung. At about the same time a boy aged eleven attending the same school came under clinic observation because of asthmatic symptoms and was found to have a positive Mantoux test.

It was decided to X-ray the school staff and this was done on May 15th. One of the teachers was found to have extensive pulmonary tuberculosis and was admitted to Peppard. She had taught at the school since 1937, and throughout this period had short absences with minor respiratory illnesses. She had a cough for several years but had never before been X-rayed.

On June 12th 501 children aged five to eleven out of a total of 578 were Heaf tested. Ninety one were positive reactors but of those, 24 were subsequently found to have been previously B. C. G. vaccinated. This left 67 Heaf positive children. A striking feature was that 62 of the 91 converters had grade 3 to grade 4 reactions; in each of these cases oedema and erythema measuring between 10 and 40 mm. all appeared within 24 hours and in some cases within a very few hours, and four had red streaks,

possibly lymphangitis, extending up and down the forearm. Three children had malaise with vomiting and pain in the axilla. The reactions began to subside after 48 hours, and seemed at first to be of an allergic type, but when the strong Heaf reactions were retested with Mantoux tests at 1 in 10,000, 50 were found to be positive, some strongly positive. Five children were eventually found to have hilar or lung lesions.

Heaf tests were repeated in November, 1967 and three more children were found to be positive; one with a history of old tuberculous adenitis was among the absentees in June. The other two children were negative in June and positive in November; one of the two had a lung lesion and was admitted to Peppard. Interestingly, the two children were discovered to be close neighbours and it was thought that they may have acquired the infection from another infectious source. Soon afterwards the mother of one of the two children was independently referred to the chest clinic with erythema nodosum affecting the calf surfaces of the legs. Her Mantoux test was strongly positive and an X-ray showed right hilar adenopathy. A gastric lavage was positive and a Kveim test negative. It is clear, therefore, that the mother, aged 28, also had primary tuberculosis and is unlikely to have infected her child. It is possible that all three patients in this little group (mother, child and child's friend) have acquired infection from another source as yet unidentified.

Treatment: The teacher, aged 52, admitted to Peppard on 6th June, 1967, has done very well on treatment and was discharged on 2nd September, 1967. She has been sputum negative for six consecutive months. She continues chemotherapy at home and is now back at her teaching post.

All the children and the mother with radiological abnormalities in the chest are receiving standard chemotherapy. Fifty children with strong tuberculin tests but normal X-rays are on prophylactic isoniazid treatment.

The story of a teacher in a primary school who had been coughing for years and having 2-3 short absences per year on account of respiratory symptoms, and yet had never been X-rayed before, speaks for itself and defies comment.

The Out-Patient statistics for Diseases of the Chest for the two year period are shown in Table 9, and they show that the work load continues much the same. New cases of tuberculosis and patients who are sputum positive do not show any further decline.

VENEREAL DISEASE Arrangements have continued with the Royal Berkshire Hospital Special Clinic for follow up visits on behalf of the Authority. The following are details of the patients from the Borough who attended for the first time:

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Syphilis	12	8
Gonorrhoea	146	154
Other conditions	316	356

I am indebted to Dr. P. W. F. McIlvenna, Physician in charge of the Treatment Centre at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, for the following comments: There is no doubt that the incidence of venereal and allied diseases continues to rise both nationally and locally. I think that the general public on the whole realise that although these diseases are serious and even fatal, they are all readily curable if taken in good time and therefore most people come early for treatment. In view of the fact that all do not do so, publicity of some sort is advisable. Furthermore, there seems to be a widespread idea, especially amongst men, that if they indulge in extra-marital intercourse they either "get it", meaning syphilis or gonorrhoea, or they "get nothing". Few seem to realise that there is such a condition as non-specific urethritis which, whilst not as serious as the other two diseases, can give rise to various troubles. It is therefore in the interest of any man having had a risk and who has any symptom, to seek expert advice rather than to decide for himself that attendance at a special clinic is unnecessary. As to women, there is often great difficulty in getting the known contacts of cases of male venereal disease to attend as there are few women who go through life without ever having had a discharge, and they fail to realise that the discharge from gonorrhoea can be so slight as to be regarded as normal. .

National Assistance Act, 1948, Parts III and IV

SECTION 21. PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Work was completed on the new home in Burghfield Road and this establishment was officially opened by the Mayor, Alderman F. Taylor, J. P. on December 7th, 1967. As a mark of respect and in appreciation of her services to the Borough, this home was named after Alderman Mrs. Alice Burrows. It provides accommodation for 50 residents - male, female and married couples. A special wing enables us to deal with the more physically handicapped and we are able to extend our 'short stay' scheme which is greatly appreciated.

The following table gives details of admissions during the two years:

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions						Total new admissions (permanent)	
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short Stay			
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
Woodlands	-	2	19	20	8	20	1	-	27	40
Wychcotes	-	-	-	1	-	7	-	-	-	8
Warren House	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	4
Parkhurst	1	-	13	-	20	-	8	-	33	-
Southern Hill	1	-	9	-	12	-	2	-	21	-
Arthur Clark	-	1	-	23	-	8	-	39	-	31
Dysons Wood	-	1	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	12
Alice Jenkins	-	-	-	19	-	7	-	1	-	26
Edward Hughes	-	2	1	15	3	15	-	-	4	30
Alice Burrows	-	1	6	12	9	36	30	47	15	48
	2	8	48	98	52	101	41	87	100	199
	10		146		153		128		299	

Again I must report that the staff situation is still giving us cause for concern and we are finding that staff who have been with us for some time are now leaving to take up less demanding jobs. There would appear to be

no easy solution to the problem of recruitment and we can only hope that it may ease in the near future. Matrons are to be congratulated on their sterling efforts in maintaining the service on its present level.

A second sheltered development was opened at Liebenrood Road and it is pleasing for me to say that both are proving a great success.

Members of the Central Entertainments Committee have been very active and as a result of the many fetes, whist drives and other money raising functions which they organised, it was possible for them to provide a great many extra amenities to our elderly residents. Congratulations are due to them for their fine efforts.

Temporary Accommodation

Several long stay cases have been in this accommodation but generally it was found that there was a slight decrease in the amount of use over the previous year. This may well be due to the fact that more intermediate accommodation is being made available to us. Wayfarers and other casual admissions are still being accommodated in the porch. Liaison with officers of the Children's Department who have a joint responsibility has been good.

The following table shows how this accommodation has been used:

(1967 figures in brackets)

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Admissions	- (-)	65 (55)	81 (88)	146 (143)
Maintenance Days	- (-)	1,837 (1,664)	3,722 (3,491)	5,559 (5,155)
Remaining on 31st December	- (-)	9 (3)	15 (43)	24 (46)

SECTION 22. CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased from £8.6s.0d. in 1967, to £9.17s.6d. in 1968.

The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents in accordance with the scale in use during the year:

				<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
				£	£
Woodlands ...	...	...	...	10,001	11,246
Wychcotes ...	...	...	...	3,050	2,895
Warren House	...	...	...	3,638	4,138
Parkhurst ...	...	...	...	9,506	11,875
Southern Hill	...	...	...	8,253	9,333
Arthur Clark Home	...	...	...	7,492	8,490
Dysons Wood Hostel	...	...	...	3,285	3,753
Alice Jenkins Home	...	...	...	6,827	7,995
Edward Hughes Home	...	...	...	10,342	10,918
Alice Burrows Home	...	...	...	156	10,528
				<u>£62,550</u>	<u>£81,171</u>

SECTION 24. AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION under this section.

There has been no dispute with any other Authority

SECTION 25. POWER OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Relationship with officers of the Ministry of Social Security has once again been

entirely satisfactory. Officers of both Departments are in close co-operation and have been able to assist each other in providing assistance in any cases that have arisen.

SECTION 26. PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The following table shows the numbers and categories of persons who were

resident in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough: (1967 figures in brackets)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Aged Infirm	2 (2)	15 (15)
Blind	1 (1)	3 (3)
Cripples	2 (2)	3 (4)
Deaf and Dumb	1 (1)	- (-)
Epileptic	1 (1)	2 (2)
Spastic	- (-)	- (-)
	<u>7 (7)</u>	<u>23 (24)</u>

SECTION 29. WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) Deaf and Dumb

The agency arrangement which exists between the Corporation and the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continue to operate satisfactorily. The number of persons on the register as at 31st December, 1968 is as follows:

	Deaf without Speech		Deaf with Speech		Hard of Hearing	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
16-29	7	4	8	9	3	3
30-49	16	14	-	2	1	-
50-64	10	6	2	4	-	2
65 and over	5	6	3	-	-	1
Totals	38	30	13	15	4	6

The extensions to the premises are now complete and a party of our deaf members are redecorating the hall.

Religious - The average attendances at the services have been good and special services have been held for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The Anniversary of the dedication of the chapel is held in September, a Harvest Festival service in October and a Lessons and Carols service in December. We have attended other churches in the deanery.

Social - Annual outings were held, visiting the Isle of Wight in 1967 and Weymouth in 1968.

Several parties have been held, including the Annual Dinner, a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party.

Two big indoor sports tournaments have taken place in Reading, and in 1968 our billiard team won the zone championship of the S.D.A.S.A.

Language Class - The English Language class developed during 1967 into a drama group and performed an adapted version of J.B. Priestley's play "Mother's Day" during the Christmas Party.

Women's Fellowship - Members meet fortnightly on Wednesday afternoon. They enjoy the social gathering and at the same time make small articles to be sold at Sales of Work etc.

Welfare - Whenever necessary interpreters have been provided to help the deaf with their problems. They have been visited at home, at work and in hospital. Employment has been found for six deaf people.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped the deaf in past years.

(b) Hard of Hearing

I am indebted to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hammond, Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association, for the following information: Membership of this Association is now over 100 and it provides a wide range of social activities for both old and young and continues to provide a much needed voluntary service for this class of handicapped person.

(c) Blind

The Welfare Officer for the Blind also acts as Secretary for the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind. At the end of 1968 there were 196 persons on the Blind Register, 80 male, 116 female. There were 20 new registrations, four transfers-in, 16 deaths and two transfers-out to other areas, resulting in an increase of six on the previous year.

Of the 20 persons registered blind during 1968, 16 are over 65 years of age.

There are, in addition, 118 persons on the partially sighted register at the end of the year, 45 males, 73 females. There were 18 additions to this register, one transfer-out, five deaths and five with deterioration of sight were registered blind.

Monthly Social - An average of 80 people attend our Socials many of them transported from their homes by members of the Rotarians, Round Table and Lions Club, as well as a number of Friends of the Blind.

The annual hyacinth show held in February attracts between twenty and thirty entries and there is keen competition to hold the silver presentation cup for the year.

Handicrafts - Two classes are held each week and members work enthusiastically for the Handicraft Competition held each April when two lady members of the Committee judge the best in each class. The crafts include seagrass stools, string bags, cane work, knitted socks and other articles, as well as nylon-covered coat hangers. Many of these are made by members in their own homes.

The Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind continue to act as agents for the Council providing outings and grants for special needs such as holidays, fuel etc., which all help the blind people to overcome their disability and gain some enjoyment.

Report of Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon - I am obliged to Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, for the following report: Twenty three patients (the lowest number for many years) were examined for admission to the Blind Register in 1967 and forty in 1968. It is interesting to note that the majority of patients examined were over the age of 60.

	Blind		Partially Sighted		Total	
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Cataract	2	3	3	3	5	9*
Claucoma	1	3	2	1	3	4
Myopia	1	2	2	1	3	3
Retinal Conditions	4	3	-	3	4	6
Degenerative Conditions	5	6	-	5	5	11
Infective Conditions	3	-	-	2	3	2
Developmental Conditions	-	-	-	3	-	3
Pituitary Tumour	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Tumour	-	1	-	-	-	1
	16	19	7	18	23	40

(* 3 not blind)

Ages	<u>Under 20</u>	<u>20-40</u>	<u>40-60</u>	<u>60-70</u>	<u>70-80</u>	<u>80-100</u>
1967	-	-	-	5	8	10
1968	1	1	5	5	11	17

Cataract 1967 - One of the two patients with cataract had macula degeneration as well. One of the partially sighted patients had macula degeneration, but could have a cataract extraction if the vision deteriorated further. The second had lost the sight of one eye due to a detached retina, the other eye retaining 6/12 vision in spite of a cataract. The third patient had had a cataract extraction in one eye, but no perception of light on account of a detached retina. The vision in the other eye was 6/18 but a cataract extraction could be done if the vision deteriorated.

Cataract 1968 - One of the blind patients in this category was suffering from temporal arteritis as well as cataract, one patient could be operated on if her general condition permits and the third did not wish operation. Of the three partially sighted patients, one had refused operation, one had had a cataract extraction on one eye followed by aphakic glaucoma and was awaiting operation on the other eye, and the third had macula degeneration and in one eye, acute narrow angle glaucoma as well as cataract.

Glaucoma 1967 - The patient who was blind in this category had been operated on and retained a vision of 6/36 in one eye, but had a very small visual field. One partially sighted patient had had bilateral cataract extractions with a resulting vision of 6/9 in one eye, but in the other the cataract had been hypermature with resulting absolute glaucoma. The other patient had glaucoma in one eye with a vision of 6/24, the other eye having a cataract.

Glaucoma 1968 - Of the three blind patients, two had retained a certain amount of vision following operation, but had very constricted visual fields. The partially sighted patient had had bilateral cataract extractions followed by absolute glaucoma in one eye and aphakic glaucoma in the other, the latter being controlled by medical means.

Myopia 1967 - This blind patient had cataract and retinal detachment in addition to myopia.

Myopia 1968 - One of these blind patients had cataract as well as myopia. One cataract had been extracted followed by complete retinal detachment. The second patient had macula degeneration in addition to myopia, as had the partially sighted patient.

Retinal Conditions 1967 - One of the patients under this heading had had a successful cataract extraction, but also had bilateral retinal detachment. The second patient had absolute glaucoma in one eye, following a retinal venous thrombosis and a hypertensive retinopathy. The last two had a diabetic retinopathy.

Retinal Conditions 1968 - One of the blind patients under this heading was suffering from macula degeneration and retinal detachment, another had retinitis pigmentosa and the third a diabetic retinopathy. Two of the partially sighted patients had a diabetic retinopathy, one an arterio sclerotic retinopathy.

Degenerative Conditions 1967 - All these patients were suffering from macula degeneration, one having a hole at the macula and another a disciform type of degeneration.

Degenerative Conditions 1968 - All the blind and partially sighted patients in this category had macula degeneration.

Infective Conditions 1967 - One patient was blind as a result of uveitis. The second had a serious retinopathy and the third had interstitial keratitis and chorioido-retinopathy.

Infective Conditions 1968 - Of these two patients one had had keratitis and a secondary cataract which had been successfully extracted with a resultant vision of 6/18, and the other had uveitis and cataract.

Developmental Conditions 1968 - One of these patients was a Mongol with congenital cataract, one had buphthalmos and the third retinal abiotrophy.

Pituitary Tumour 1968 - This patient retained a vision of 6/12 in one eye.

Cerebral Tumour 1968 - This patient had optic atrophy as a result of a cerebral tumour.

Persons on the Blind Register - 1968
(1967 figures in brackets)

Age	0-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Male	3 (3)	- (-)	3 (3)	3 (4)	11 (8)	7 (10)	17 (13)	14 (17)	22 (22)	80 (80)
Female	- (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	16 (15)	40 (39)	45 (42)	116 (110)
Total	3 (3)	1 (1)	5 (4)	6 (7)	15 (12)	12 (15)	33 (28)	54 (56)	67 (64)	196 (190)

Age at which blindness occurred - 1968
(1967 figures in brackets)

Age	Under 1 year	1-4	5-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Male	13 (13)	- (1)	3 (2)	5 (4)	1 (1)	4 (4)	11 (10)	9 (9)	10 (12)	15 (14)	9 (10)	80 (80)
Female	11 (11)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)	3 (3)	5 (5)	8 (8)	16 (15)	16 (16)	28 (24)	23 (22)	116 (110)
Total	24 (24)	2 (3)	5 (4)	7 (6)	4 (4)	9 (9)	19 (18)	25 (24)	26 (28)	43 (38)	32 (32)	196 (190)

An analysis of the Register shows the following figures under the various headings:

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Pre-school children	0	-
Children at school or in hospital	4	3
Approved Home Workers	2	2
Employed elsewhere	21	24
Unemployed	1	-
Not available for work	15	16
Not capable of work	14	17
Not working - over 65 years	133	134
	<u>190</u>	<u>196</u>

Persons on Partially Sighted Register - 1968
(1967 figures in brackets)

Age	Under 15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	Total
Male	5 (5)	1 (1)	8 (5)	8 (7)	23 (23)	45 (41)
Female	4 (5)	5 (5)	6 (5)	8 (8)	50 (47)	73 (70)
Total	9 (10)	6 (6)	14 (10)	16 (15)	73 (70)	118 (111)

(d) Other Classes of Handicapped Persons

Details of assistance provided

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Appliances	41	34
House adaptations	15	5
Housing (specialised)	22	13
Transport	57	57
Employment	11	11
Referral to Occupational Therapy Centre	73	75
Referral for home work	16	10
Referral to other agencies (Department of Health & Social Security, Employment & Productivity, Voluntary Organisations)	49	47
Convalescence	22	19
Financial help	33	23
Social activities	50	41
Welfare visits	56	66
General supervision	88	147
Total number assisted	361	346
Deceased	12	23
New cases referred	83	55

A senior welfare officer is now developing a comprehensive geriatric service and all handicapped persons aged 65 years and over have been transferred to her care.

Our aim has been to provide a service which will enable handicapped people to remain in the community for their life span. To be with their families, at home, going to work, having a holiday, joining a social club, developing a hobby, travelling.

What can we do to achieve this?

Housing - We have continued with our plan to rehouse severely disabled persons and their families in specially designed bungalows. The next group is nearing completion. We hope, with the assistance of the Borough Architect, to continue producing these homes embodying special features to assist handicapped persons.

Employment - Work is something we frequently grumble about, but would be unhappy if deprived of it against our will. A regular case conference for job assessment is held with the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Department of Employment and Productivity. With his help some persons resume employment in outside industry. Others are fully occupied at our Work Centre. A report of the activities of this Centre appears elsewhere.

Convalescent Holidays - This is a need for many handicapped persons. It provides not only a recuperative period for them, but also their relatives. Many handicapped persons enjoy a family holiday and specially organised holiday camps are available to provide this. Large parties leave in May and September to use these camps before and after the normal season.

Another long awaited service became available towards the end of 1967. The opening of a short stay annexe for the care of the young chronic sick attached to a new aged persons home. Five beds are available for periods of 2-4 weeks. This enables a family to have a much needed break. It is also invaluable to relieve problems caused by the sudden illness or death of the relative caring for the handicapped person.

Car Badges and Travel Permits - This national service continued to operate. Badges are issued, subject to certain conditions, for periods of three years. The success of these services depends on the co-operation of the police, traffic wardens and public transport staff.

What of the future?

Economic strigencies press hard on the development of all community services. We hope for further special housing to provide independence to many handicapped persons still in unsuitable houses.

An extension of the work shop facilities to provide a greater variety of work and reduce the possibility of unemployment.

To be able to maintain and increase the benefits of a remedial holiday, maybe to have the use of a house or camp for all types of persons in need, children and adults.

To maintain and increase the provision of appliances and aids, which, under the skilled guidance of the occupational therapists, can so considerably increase the abilities of a disabled person.

An assessment and fitting room with space for remedial exercise and movements, under the supervision of a physiotherapist, this too is a tremendous need particularly for the young person who has benefitted from this while at special school.

Behind every handicapped person is a handicapped family. Our service must be for the family and to keep that family playing its full role in the community.

Occupational Therapy Centre

This unit has continued to encourage handicapped people to achieve independence through activity, both at the Centre and in their homes.

The Centre, which has previously been open four days each week, is now open on Wednesdays in order to cope with the extra amount of work, and the Geriatric Class which started in 1966.

About 70 patients attend for Industrial Work and about 30 attend for Craftwork.

Industrial Work - Local firms have been satisfied with the standard of the "outwork" which we provide.

Craftwork - All the articles made by patients were sold mainly to other patients, their families or friends.

Home Visits - The demand for this service continued to grow, and the number of patients continued to increase throughout the period. Much time was spent making and adapting Aids to daily living and ensuring that these are suitable.

Geriatric Class - This started slowly in 1967 but has since grown steadily and there is now a regular attendance.

Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Patients - An average of ten patients are brought in each week from outlying areas and they seem to think the long journey worthwhile.

Transport - The availability of the Ambulance service has increased this year and we continue to use the Hospital Car Service to the full and rely on their co-operation.

Social Club - Mrs. C. King and Mrs. Marten have again completed a most successful period of club activities. So much are the efforts of these voluntary workers appreciated, that we now have a waiting list of persons who should be attached to a club. The patients' committee draw up a varied programme of outings, films and entertainment to widen the interests of these homebound people.

SECTION 31. CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) Meals on Wheels

The following table shows the number of meals supplied by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service:

				<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
January	..	..	..	1,811	1,328
February	..	..	..	1,664	1,764
March	..	..	..	1,969	1,791
April	..	..	..	1,609	1,834
May	..	..	..	1,718	2,011
June	..	..	..	1,756	1,636
July	..	..	..	1,596	1,798
August	..	..	..	1,899	1,897
September	..	..	..	1,715	1,734
October	..	..	..	1,792	2,214
November	..	..	..	1,933	1,961
December	..	..	..	1,796	1,889
				<u>21,258</u>	<u>21,857</u>

The number of meals provided continue to increase, and thanks are again due to Mrs. Carlton and the members of the W.R.V.S. for their splendid work.

Work on the new premises was commenced in 1967 and the first meals were supplied on the 15th January, 1968. Later in the year the dining club was opened and I am pleased to report that this is proving extremely successful.

(b) Chiropody Service

Ambulant Patients - The Queen Victoria Institute Fund continues to provide for ambulant patients at its twelve clinics. The number of patients treated during 1968 was 850, an increase of 39 over the previous year. Not one applicant was refused, provided he or she lived in the Reading area and was of pensionable age.

Home Bound Patients - These patients are treated by two qualified chiropodists employed directly by the Council on a part-time basis.

The Care of the Aged

In view of the increasing numbers of old people coming to the Department for help, it seemed advisable to separate them from the Other Classes of Handicapped Persons Section, and it was decided that anyone over 65, with or without any specific disability, should be the responsibility of one Welfare Officer. In June of 1967 therefore, all those over 65 needing continued support, were transferred to the Geriatric Register. They are thus included in the 1967 total of 460 new applicants for help of all kinds, including admission to Old People's Homes, housing sheltered developments, aids and adaptations, and general welfare. The total new applicants for 1968 was 392.

It is not feasible for the Welfare Officer responsible to undertake regular visiting of old people, and this is done by the Health Visiting Department, where necessary, or by voluntary organisations, but it is possible also to keep in touch with a large number of others through the Home Helps, District Nurses etc. The Occupational Therapists visit many old people to advise about aids to daily living or to provide diversional therapy, as well as running a weekly Geriatric class at the Work Centre.

The Community Service Programmes running in many of the Reading Schools contribute very considerably to the care of the aged. There are, therefore, a large number of elderly in contact with some member of the Department or voluntary body, to whom additional services can be supplied as the need arises.

At the end of 1968, 12,254 permits had been issued under the Elderly Persons Travel Concessions Scheme.

As mentioned under Section 21, the Alice Burrows Home, which opened in 1967, operates a short stay scheme for the elderly and infirm. It cannot be stressed too strongly how valuable such a function is. Many families looking after an elderly or infirm relative badly need a break and the opportunity to take a holiday. When this can be arranged regularly everyone benefits and the person continues to live as part of the household instead of needing a permanent place in the Home.

SECTION 37. REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of 1968, eight homes were registered in Reading as providing accom-

modation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. They are as follows:

107 Connaught Road	..	..	..	4 places
8 Southcote Road	..	..	..	18 "
106 Wokingham Road	..	..	..	7 "
110 Wokingham Road	..	..	..	8 "
Springfield St. Luke	..	..	..	27 "
272 Wokingham Road	..	..	..	2 "
4 College Road	..	..	..	14 "
31 Alexandra Road	..	..	..	6 "

SECTION 47. REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION

There has been no need during the year to take any action under this section.

SECTION 48. DUTY OF COUNCILS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR PROPERTY OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS, ETC.

A considerable amount of work is carried out under this section and there

is a good liaison with the Hospital Management Committee staff with regard to payment of rents, etc.

SECTION 50. BURIAL OR CREMATION
OF THE DEAD

Four burials (three male and one female) and two cremations (one male and one female) were arranged during 1967, and three burials (two males and one female) and two cremations (two males) during 1968.

Miscellaneous Items

CREMATION The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table shows the number of cremations over the last twenty years:

1968	...	...	...	1,987
1967	...	...	...	1,837
1966	...	...	...	1,857
1965	...	...	...	1,731
1964	...	...	...	1,637
1963	...	...	...	2,064
1962	...	...	...	1,878
1961	...	...	...	1,720
1960	...	...	...	1,537
1955	...	...	...	992
1950	...	...	...	567

Of those cremated in 1967 746 (40.6%) were borough residents and 1,091 (59.3%) came from outside the borough. Of the residents of the borough who died 56.6% were cremated. The corresponding figures for 1968 were borough residents 774 (39.5%) outside the borough 1,213 (60.5%). Of the residents of the borough who died in 1968 54.2% were cremated.

NURSING HOMES At the end of 1968 there were two Nursing Homes in the borough:

Dunedin (acute surgical cases)	- 19 beds
Reading University Health Centre	- 24 beds

EMPLOYMENT I am indebted to the Manager, Employment Exchange, Department of Employment and Productivity, for the following report: The number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area, (now including the Aldermaston area) was estimated to be 96,724 in June, 1967, (the latest date for which statistics are available), showing an increase of 9,685 over the previous year.

(a) The percentages of workers in the main industry groups were:

	(%)
(1) Professional and Scientific Services	20
(2) Distributive Trades	14
(3) Miscellaneous Services (Cinemas, Hotels, Garages, etc.)	11
(4) Engineering and Electrical Goods Manufacture	11
(5) Building and Civil Engineering	6.8
(6) Food, Drink and Tobacco Manufacture	5.0
(7) Transport and Communications	4.9
(8) Insurance, Banking and Finance	4.8
(9) Government Services (National & Local)	4.8
(10) Printing and Publishing	3.4
(11) Timber, Furniture, Shop-fittings	2.2
(12) Agriculture and Horticulture	1.8
(13) Others (small individually)	10.3
	<u>100%</u>

(b) Demand for Workers

The demand for labour in 1967 was at a lower level than in the previous few years. There was little change during 1968, a slight (seasonal) increase in vacancies up to September being followed by a sharp drop to a December total 24% below that of December, 1967.

There was, throughout, a keen demand for skilled craftsmen, particularly in engineering. For unskilled and semi-skilled workers the opportunities were much more limited.

Full-time employment for women was plentiful, but part-time vacancies were in short supply. During 1968, development of medical services in the area resulted in an increase in hospital vacancies.

The number of outstanding vacancies of all kinds recorded at the Reading Employment Exchange in each of the quarter-months of 1968 were as follows (1967 figures in brackets):

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	888 (936)	596 (629)	1,484 (1,565)
June	944 (1,053)	489 (600)	1,433 (1,653)
September	931 (967)	642 (484)	1,573 (1,451)
December	535 (887)	503 (476)	1,038 (1,363)

(c) Unemployment in the area

The higher level of unemployment which began towards the end of 1966 remained substantially unaltered during 1967 and 1968. However the rate of unemployment in the Reading area was only a little over half the national average.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at the Reading Employment Exchange during 1968 were as follows (1967 figures in brackets):

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	1,052 (968)	162 (199)	1,214 (1,167)
June	854 (803)	133 (140)	987 (943)
September	918 (807)	134 (131)	1,052 (938)
December	843 (878)	147 (129)	990 (1,007)

Reading and Central Berks Youth Employment Office had the following average number of young people (aged under 18) on their unemployed register:

1967:	Boys, 56	Girls, 21
1968:	Boys, 43	Girls, 8

(d) The Placing work of the Employment Exchange

During the two-year period an average of 450-500 persons per month were placed in work in the Reading area. All types of employment were involved from labouring to work of "Professional and Executive Register" Standard. (Women comprised 25% of the total).

The specialist service for disabled persons (whose register normally contains about 150 men and 20 women) placed 45-50 people per month in employment suited to their physical or mental handicaps.

The Occupational Guidance Unit, based at Valpy Street, Reading, was established in March, 1966 and now deals with an average of 90 clients per month.

The function of the unit is to give general advice on careers (to people over the age of 18) as contrasted with the Employment Services of the Department which primarily provide enquirers with information about specific vacancies.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

MR. J. GREEN, FRSH, FAPHI, Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:

As an experiment, it was decided to comment on the work done during the two years, 1967 and 1968, in one Report. Apart from this, the Report follows similar lines to previous years, although one or two detailed tables relating to unsound, condemned and individual food and drugs samples have been omitted on grounds of economy.

1967/68 was another period of staff shortage and staff change. Inevitably this has affected the department's work, particularly in connection with housing and district inspection. However, the meat inspection duties of the department were rationalized by increasing the number of Authorised Meat Inspectors, and this has reduced the call on our limited public health inspection staff, enabling, in the circumstances, reasonable progress to be made.

We seem to have reached a stage where it is almost impossible to recruit qualified Public Health Inspectors at junior level except through local training. It is important, therefore, to recruit students as far as we can, although the number of students must be related to the staff available to train and instruct them. However, it would seem that if the needs of the service are to be adequately met, we shall have to depend to a greater extent on the use of Technical Assistants.

Only 117 houses were represented in clearance areas or as individual unfit houses, but it should perhaps be mentioned that in addition to these, approximately 70 houses which might otherwise have been represented in clearance areas, were dealt with under Highways powers, to make way for the proposed inner distribution road.

There are no special comments regarding the considerable work done during 1967/68 in respect of housing improvements and, to a lesser extent, on houses in multiple occupation. As to the future, there are many mature and ageing houses in the town which lack modern amenities, where improvement and basic renovation can help considerably in maintaining valuable housing resources, and if housing rehabilitation can be associated with general environmental improvement, whole districts may well be made more attractive and desirable to live in. Indeed, the Government has decided to give some degree of priority to the rehabilitation of twilight houses, and in anticipation of legislation, it is intended to survey a section of the town where such action may be appropriate.

Our housing programmes in the past have been based on general survey and inspection carried out as the circumstances have allowed. A sample survey method has now been devised and its use on a national scale has indicated a deficiency in local authority returns in houses for slum clearance. The number of houses dealt with locally by way of Closing Orders in areas where fairly large scale clearance is required, may be an indication that our programme is lagging behind the rate of housing deterioration. A survey on Denington Report lines which would involve the inspection of approximately 1,000 houses, would undoubtedly help to more accurately assess the situation. It could also be used to assess the extent to which

there is a need for housing improvement, how far we are affected with multiple occupation and, if necessary, to what extent there is overcrowding. Preparations for a survey of this kind are fairly well advanced, which, if circumstances allow, will be carried out in 1969.

Construction of the new slaughter-hall at the Abattoirs was well advanced at the end of 1968 and it is expected to come into operation towards the autumn of 1969. This will have the effect of increasing through-put potential. It will also provide space for additional refrigeration and cold storage. The Reading meat inspection service was in great demand to assist in the training of Public Health Inspectors and other people from outside in meat inspection. It is hoped that it may be possible to take a step forward in the coming year on the idea of a more comprehensive meat inspection training centre here.

Our small degree of staff re-organisation enabled more progress to be made on the registration of premises under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act. Most of the registrable premises have now been visited and basic inspection is proceeding as far as the circumstances permit. Inspections have shown deficiencies in the standard of accommodation and amenities in premises, but there is a ready response on the part of occupiers and owners in carrying out the necessary improvements. An interesting aspect of work under this Act has been the attention focused on ways and means in which machinery and premises can be made safer against accidents, and there was liaison at national level in connection with certain types of machinery produced and distributed on a fairly wide scale.

The problem of the feral pigeon has been given special attention, trapping points have been increased, and it will be noted that a considerable number of pigeons were destroyed. It is hoped that better results will be forthcoming once the traps are really established.

Due partly to the "freeze", the date of operation of the No. 12 (Tilehurst) Smoke Control Area was extended to the 1st September, 1968. There can be little doubt about the value of clean air work which is reflected, in some measure, by the air pollution figures shown in that section of the Report, and this is only part of one side of the coin - the improvement in the environment is bound to enhance general well-being and the benefits enjoyed by industry on the efficiency and economic sides must be considerable indeed.

The achievements during the period under review were not attained without effort and tribute is due to the whole of the staff for their unstinting support and for the way in which the work has been done often with difficulty.

1. Housing

CLEARANCE AREAS The following 65 houses were included in Clearance Areas and Compulsory Purchase Orders during 1967 and 1968:

15-51 Mundesley Street	Clearance Area No.1/67 - CPO 1967
3 & 5 Orchard Street	(Mundesley Street & Orchard Street)
1-37 & 2-50 Letcombe Street	Clearance Areas Nos.1/68 & 2/68 - CPO 1968 (Letcombe Street)

The undermentioned 246 houses, previously included in Clearance Areas and Compulsory Purchase Orders, now confirmed, were demolished during 1967 and 1968:

1 & 5 Back Road & 2-14 Devonshire Place	Part of Clearance Area No.2/62 (Kennet Side, Back Road, Orts Road & Devonshire Place) CPO 1962
17-31 Dover Street	Clearance Area No.1/64 (Dover Street) CPO 1965
16-36 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No.1/65 (Chatham Street) CPO 1965
40-74 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No.2/65 (Chatham Street) CPO 1965
80-98 Chatham Street & 2-16 York Place	Clearance Area No.3/65 (Chatham Street & York Place) CPO 1965
129-149 & 169-175 Chatham Street	Part of Clearance Area No.5/65 (Chatham Street) CPO 1965
117-121 Chatham Street	Clearance Area No.6/65 (Chatham Street) CPO 1965
97-113 Chatham Street	Part of Clearance Area No.7/65 (Chatham Street) CPO 1965
41-79 Chatham Street & 21-39 & 43 Alfred Street	Part of Clearance Area No.8/65 (Chatham Street & Alfred Street) CPO 1965
5-15 & 19 Alfred Street 1-7 (consecutive) Eaton Place & 1-10 (consecutive) Providence Place	Clearance Area No.9/65 (Alfred Street, Eaton Place & Providence Place) CPO 1965
68-104 Weldale Street 3-7 North Street & 81 Great Knollys Street	Part of Clearance Area No.10/65 (Great Knollys Street, North Street & Weldale Street) CPO 1965
24-52 Wolseley Street	Clearance Area No.11/65 (Wolseley Street) CPO 1965

50-68 Whitley Street	Clearance Area No. 1/66 (Whitley Street) CPO 1966
26-48 Whitley Street	Clearance Area No. 2/66 (Whitley Street) CPO 1966
16-24 Whitley Street	Clearance Area No. 3/66
1-39 Spring Gardens	(Spring Gardens, Spring Terrace
1-15 (consecutive) Spring Terrace	& Whitley Street) CPO 1966

During 1967 and 1968, the Minister of Housing & Local Government held Public Local Inquiries and subsequently confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Orders made in respect of the following Clearance Areas:

Clearance Area No. 1/66 (Whitley Street)
 Clearance Area No. 2/66 (Whitley Street)
 Clearance Area No. 3/66 (Spring Gardens, Spring Terrace & Whitley Street)
 Clearance Area No. 4/66 (Mount Street, Spring Gardens & Waterloo Road)
 Clearance Area No. 1/67 (Mundesley Street & Orchard Street)
 Clearance Area No. 1/68 (Letcombe Street)
 Clearance Area No. 2/68 (Letcombe Street)

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES The following 44 houses were represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense:

27, 45 & 49 Albert Road (Reading); 1 Awbrey Terrace;
 9 Brook Street; 21 & 57 Brunswick Street; 47 Crown
 Street; 84 Edgehill Street; 4 Jubilee Square; 173 Great
 Knollys Street; 56 Greyfriars Road; 324, 328 & 330
 Kennet Side; 3 & 9 Kew Terrace; 94 King's Road
 (Caversham); 23 Mill Lane; 87 Mount Pleasant;
 1, 3, 5 & 7 Nursery Road; 55 Orts Road; 1 Peppard
 Road; 68 Rupert Street; 21 Small Mead Road;
 84 & 98 Star Road; 5 Tudor Road; 35 Waterloo Road;
 43 & 45 Watlington Street; 10, 12, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81 &
 83 Weldale Street; 83 Wolseley Street and 1 Upper
 Crown Street.

In the case of 84 & 98 Star Road and 35 Waterloo Road, Undertakings to render the houses fit were given by the owners, but Closing or Demolition Orders were made in respect of the remaining houses.

The first floor flat at 37 Great Knollys Street was dealt with under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, and a Closing Order made.

Nos. 46 Bridge Street, 17 Brook Street, 18 Brook Street West, 1 Fulham Road, 123 & 141 King's Road (Reading), and 10 Weldale Place, houses owned by the Local Authority, were Certified Unfit.

The undermentioned 19 houses, already subject to formal action under the Housing Act, 1957, were demolished during 1967 and 1968:

23 Boarded Lane	Closing Order 1962
49 Garnet Street	Closing Order 1958
4 Jubilee Square	Closing Order 1967
3, 5, 6, 7 & 9 Kew Terrace	Closing Orders 1958, 1964 & 1967
1, 3, 5 & 7 Nursery Road	Demolition Orders 1967
219 & 221 Peppard Road	Certified Unfit 1964
1, 3 & 5 St. Saviour's Road	Closing Orders 1966 & 1967
49 School Road	Closing Order 1964
1 Upper Crown Street	Demolition Order 1968

Following the execution of extensive works of repair by the owners, No. 94 King's Road (Caversham), was made fit and the Closing Order previously made in respect of this house was revoked.

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT

(a) Dwellings outside Improvement Areas

Representations were received from the tenants of 91 dwellings during 1967 and 1968, requesting the Local Authority to exercise its compulsory powers to secure improvements, thus making a total of 183 representations since the introduction of the Housing Act, 1964.

Of the cases dealt with during 1967 and 1968, action was refused in eight instances, as the dwellings did not have the requisite 15-year 'life'. In nine instances, Improvement Notices were served, and in 49 cases Undertakings to carry out the necessary improvements were obtained from the 'persons having control', mostly as a result of informal negotiations.

Altogether 57 dwellings were improved to the full standard during 1967 and 1968 as a result of action taken under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964.

(b) Improvement Areas

In Improvement Area No. 1, 1964 (Liverpool Road, London Road, Manchester Road and Radstock Road), 3 Immediate Improvement Notices and 2 Undertakings were complied with during 1967 and 1968, each dwelling being improved to the full standard. By the end of 1968, only one Undertaking remained outstanding in this Area and in this case, the improvement works were nearing completion.

In Improvement Area No. 2, 1966 (Belmont Road, Cranbury Road, Elm Park Road, Oxford Road and Prince of Wales Avenue) all the initial formal action was completed. Altogether, in this Area, 79 tenanted dwellings lacking amenities were dealt with. Eight Undertakings to carry out improvements were obtained as a result of informal action. 71 Preliminary Notices were served, resulting in a further eight Undertakings being given, one dwelling being sold to the tenant and subsequently improved, and the service of 21 Immediate and 41 Suspended Improvement Notices. By the end of 1968, 9 Immediate Improvement Notices and 4 Undertakings had been complied with.

At the beginning of 1967, a third area was declared. This was Improvement Area No. 3, 1967 (Belmont Road, Cranbury Road, Elm Park Road, Gloucester Road and Prince of Wales Avenue) which contained a total of 246 dwellings, of which 119 were lacking in amenities. Of these, 52 dwellings were owner-occupied and informal approaches resulted in 11 of these dwellings being improved during 1967 and 1968. The remaining 67 dwellings lacking amenities were tenanted and of these 13 were already covered by Undertakings obtained as a result of Section 19 action taken before the area was declared. Formal area action resulted in a further 10 Undertakings being given and the service of 18 Suspended Improvement Notices. Seven dwellings were voluntarily improved prior to the service of formal notices and 9 of the Undertakings were complied with during 1967 and 1968. When the remaining tenanted dwellings have been dealt with, it is estimated that the effect of informal and formal action in this area will raise the level of improvement from 52% to 76%.

HOUSES IN MULTI-OCCUPATION During the period under review, a further 42 houses in multi-occupation were discovered, bringing the total of known cases to 502. Following the usual procedure, all the new cases were referred to the Borough Surveyor for consideration by the Planning Committee, and for investigation as to satisfactory fire precautions. The latter aspect is particularly important as in many houses of this type, oil heaters are used for space heating.

In the case of one house in multi-occupation, it was necessary to serve a Notice under the Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962, following the making of a Management Order. When the premises had been repaired, a Direction Order was made to limit the degree of occupation. Direction Orders have also been made in respect of a further five properties in multi-occupation.

A total of 54 cases came to light where sub-letting in contravention of Council mortgages was taking place and where appropriate action was taken.

As in previous years, shortage of staff has restricted the amount of time devoted to this subject in the period under review. Nevertheless, all urgent cases were dealt with and some progress has been made.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were dealt with.

INFORMATION RE LAND CHARGES, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, MORTGAGES, ETC. Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and possible slum clearance action, was supplied in many cases on official searches of the Land Charges Register - some 7,187 forms being dealt with.

Observations as to future slum clearance proposals and the potential life of dwellinghouses were made in respect of 1,210 applications for local authority mortgages in addition to which very many verbal enquiries were dealt with.

Similar observations were made in respect of 522 applications for improvement grants, the vast majority of which were the subject of visits and inspections.

156 properties offered for sale to the local authority were inspected and reported on as to fitness or unfitness, likely clearance action or possible future life, suitability for use as intermediate accommodation and details of necessary repairs.

OVERCROWDING Many complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions, including overcrowding, were investigated and, where necessary, appropriate recommendations were made to the Housing department.

A Summary of Housing Repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of inspections for the purpose of Housing					
Consolidated Regulations	..	..	..	..	1,716
Number of general inspections	..	..	..	..	5,330
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	744
Number of Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	574
Number of Statutory Notices served under the					
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	130
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act)					
complied with by Owners	..	..	..	..	104
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act)					
complied with by Local Authority	..	..	..	..	20

2. Food Administration

The many aspects of food administration, which account for a large proportion of the work of the department, are dealt with under the usual sub-headings, as follows:-

- (a) Slaughterhouses and inspection of meat
- (b) Unwholesome food condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

- (a) **SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT** 345,332 animals of all types were slaughtered and inspected in 1967/68.

The construction of the new slaughter-hall by Alf. Meade Limited is well advanced. The new entrance for animals introduced near the Caversham Road end of Abattoirs Road and the connecting

cattle race to the rear of the Abattoirs, have had the effect of reducing congestion around the front entrance and meat loading points. When this can be supplemented on the west side by a similar arrangement for the reception of small animals, a considerable improvement in the hygienic arrangements for the premises as a whole will be achieved.

The purpose of constructing a new slaughter-hall and the re-organisation of slaughtering which will come with it, is to improve efficiency and increase throughput potential. As to whether throughput will substantially increase, of course, will depend on the future circumstances. Plans are in hand for increased chilling and refrigeration space. This will be an important factor in the efficient handling of increasing quantities of fresh-killed meat, and may help at times in smoothing out slaughtering peaks by increasing holding capacity for dead meat.

The water pressurizing units which now provide a high pressure service to all parts of the slaughterhouse and lairages, are proving a great asset in facilitating the cleaning down which, with the heavy traffic to which the premises are subjected, is a constant process in maintaining hygienic conditions and reducing the possibility of the spread of infection.

The pressurized sprays also form a useful function in spraying down carcasses and eliminating the old-fashioned wiping cloths, which is now enforced, of course, by new regulations.

Meat for Export

There was continued liaison with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in connection with meat for export which has now temporarily ceased until the Abattoirs re-organisation and improvements are complete.

Casualty Animals

Some 1,280 animals were sent into the Abattoirs during 1967/68 as casualties. These are animals sent in because of injury, difficulty of parturition, suspected injury or sickness. In all these cases, it is necessary to obtain from the owner or veterinarian attending the animal, the reasons for emergency slaughter, details of symptoms, the treatment given and particulars of any drugs which may have been administered.

Details of casualties admitted to the slaughterhouses during 1967/68, are as follows:-

Heifers and steers 68; cows 282; calves 78; sheep 191; pigs 661.

Cruelty to Animals

An important part of the duties of the Inspectors is to enforce the Slaughter of Animals (Cruelty) Regulations. While it was necessary to draw the attention of owners to one or two matters concerning these regulations, no proceedings were instituted during the period under review.

Meat Inspection

The throughput at the Abattoirs was 765,135 inspection units in 1967, and 721,426 inspection units in 1968.

The slaughtering hours which were agreed in 1966, are as follows:-

	<u>Cattle Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Small Animal Slaughterhouse</u>
Monday	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 7.00 p. m.
Tuesday	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.
Wednesday	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.
Thursday	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.
Friday	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m.
Saturday	7.00 a. m. - 3.00 p. m.	7.00 a. m. - 3.00 p. m.

(Meat inspection continues for approximately one hour after slaughtering finishes)

Slaughtering times have been adhered to reasonably well. There have been one or two difficulties, of course, due to breakdown of machinery and late arrival of consignments of animals for slaughter, but Alf. Meade Limited have co-operated well in this matter. It is anticipated that the new slaughter-hall may be in operation towards the end of 1969, when opportunity will be taken to review slaughtering arrangements. The dealers and auctioneers at the Cattle Market have co-operated on Saturdays in dealing with calves early on in the auction. It would be difficult to keep calves alive over the weekend, so that their early sale enables them to be despatched to the Abattoirs for slaughter without delay.

Reading continued as one of 30 slaughtering centres submitting special statistics relating to the incidence of disease or abnormality in meat. There was also close liaison with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on mutual problems.

A number of specimens were submitted during the period under review to the Veterinary Investigation Department, Coley Park, for laboratory examination. This is a useful service and we are more fortunate than many Authorities in that we have this centre convenient and readily available to us.

Many requests for practical meat inspection training were received from Student Public Health Inspectors employed by other Authorities, and from people overseas referred to us by Government and other Departments.

There is difficulty in students obtaining practical meat inspection training and it seems clear that certain slaughtering centres which are suitable for this purpose, will need to be developed as approved meat inspection training centres. This has been agreed in principle by the Council here. However, little progress has been made so far. One of the main difficulties is accommodation space. However, with the goodwill of all concerned, it is hoped that something will materialise before long. It may well be that the Local Government Training Board will be able to assist in this matter in a general way.

As far as possible, attention was given during the period under review to the inspection of poultry slaughtered and dressed locally for sale.

Meat Inspection Charges

Meat inspection charges are agreed on a contract basis, a system which was introduced in 1963.

Tuberculosis

The incidence of Tuberculosis found in various classes of animals is shown in the table below. This shows little change in the degree of incidence over the last four years:

YEAR	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3, 687	12·04	1, 631	49·85	4, 297	-	10, 235	3·89
1965	20, 369	0·015	12, 069	0·025	7, 882	-	99, 994	0·084
1966	31, 034	0·019	9, 615	0·093	9, 119	0·098	100, 373	0·180
1967	36, 521	0·027	7, 599	0·01	11, 375	-	61, 642	0·27
1968	28, 597	0·0017	9, 478	0·42	7, 880	-	65, 342	0·22

Cysticercus Bovis

234 carcasses were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* either viable or resolved. There were two generalised cases. In 84 instances, carcasses were refrigerated as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations before being passed as fit for human consumption. In other cases, where not more than one degenerate cyst was found, offals were condemned, and after jointing produced no evidence of viable infestation, the meat was released.

Low temperature refrigerated facilities are satisfactory in Reading. A number of carcasses affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* were sent in from local authority districts outside Reading for the purpose of refrigeration for the prescribed period. It was necessary in these cases to collaborate with the authorities concerned. We arrange for surveillance of the carcasses, and after the appropriate treatment, carcasses are finally inspected and passed by our own Inspectors.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 - 1950

Public Health Inspectors qualified in meat inspection are appointed as authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring appropriate disposal of diseased carcasses, and for the disinfection of infected premises.

One case of Anthrax was reported in November, 1968. This occurred at the Knacker's Yard, Wigmore Lane, and concerned a casualty Ayreshire cow brought in from a farm situated outside the Borough. The carcass was destroyed and the premises disinfected in accordance with the Anthrax Order. Appropriate action was taken by the Divisional Veterinary Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, at the farm.

The carcass was disposed of by burning, in connection with which the Thames Valley Police Force were extremely helpful.

Routine inspection was carried out of piggeries in the town and particular attention was given to the requirements of the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, and the Swine Fever Order, 1963. Three piggeries are registered with the Authority under the former Order which, in general, was reasonably complied with.

In view of the extensive Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in the Midlands, as much attention as possible was given to the provisions of the above Order and the inspection of piggeries.

The regular poultry auction at the Cattle Market has now been discontinued.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

A total of 73 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Act were issued. The system of issuing a conditional licence to a man newly taking up this work, is still working satisfactorily.

Condemned Meat

Due mainly to tail-biting, the incidence of pyaemia or pyrexia in pigs - mainly porkers - continues to be a problem although there was a reduction in the number of pigs condemned. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Ministry.

1967

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	36,521	7,599	11,375	59,799	61,642	-
Number inspected	36,521	7,599	11,375	59,799	61,642	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	19	129	115	82	209	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14,268	5,221	83	3,744	16,199	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	39.12	70.40	1.74	6.39	26.61	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	1	-	-	180	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.027	0.01	-	0.016	0.29	-
Cysticercosis: Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	85	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	35	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-

1968

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	28,598	9,478	7,880	60,500	65,342	-
Number inspected	28,598	9,478	7,880	60,500	65,342	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	12	136	133	96	188	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11,335	7,694	103	7,478	16,140	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	39.68	82.64	1.72	12.51	25.51	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	4	-	6	144	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.0017	0.42	-	0.009	0.22	-
Cysticercosis: Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	149	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	49	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-

Knacker's Yard

There is only one knacker's yard in the Borough. Although no slaughtering is carried out, it is subject to annual licensing by the Council. The premises have been reasonably well-maintained. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 280 bovine and 75 equine carcasses were dealt with on the premises during 1967/68. Public Health Inspectors made numerous visits to the premises.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD 907 visits were paid to food establishments during the period for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and to condemn that found to be unfit for human consumption. Approximately $54\frac{1}{4}$ tons of food were condemned and 1,088 condemnation certificates issued to the traders concerned.

(c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS There are two licensed HTST milk pasteurisation plants operated by the Reading Co-operative Retail Services Limited at Stanley Grove, and the Dairy Department, Reading University, respectively. The University plant is used primarily for instruction and demonstration purposes for

dairy students, but is available for use by the trade at peak periods or in the event of emergency. Bulk collection and delivery to the local dairy is now the rule and is an improvement on the old custom of delivering milk supplies from various farms in individual churns. The milk being transported in insulated tanks, is more efficiently controlled from a temperature point of view, and this should assist in maintaining a satisfactory bacterial quality.

The following licences were issued, relating either to new premises or in connection with changes in occupation: 19 Pasteurised; 4 Sterilised; 5 Ultra Heat Treated, and 3 Untreated.

Milk Receptacles

A total of 48 milk bottles were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were found to be of a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Although the dirty milk bottle is still a problem to the trade, there were few complaints about conditions and no formal action was found to be necessary.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963

The results of samples submitted to the Public Health laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are as follows:

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	Number of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	759	Phosphatase	738	3	18
		Methylene Blue	719	20	20
Sterilised	167	Turbidity	167	-	-
Untreated	131	Methylene Blue	98	30	3

It will be noted that 20 out of 759 samples of Pasteurised Milk and 30 out of 131 samples of Untreated milk, failed the Methylene Blue test. All of the 30 samples of Untreated milk which failed the Methylene Blue test were obtained from vending machines. The Vendor was formally warned of the breach of conditions of his licence under the regulations. Subsequent samples have been found satisfactory. In all other cases, the circumstances of the failures were investigated and appropriate advice given.

School Milk

All milk supplied to schools is Pasteurised and the quality continues to be satisfactory. Checks were made under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the food and Drugs Act.

Dairy Cream

In co-operation with the Public Health Laboratory Service, 89 samples of heat treated whipped cream were obtained from retail confectioner's shops and submitted for examination during the period under review. This is a food for which there are no statutory standards at the present time, but the Methylene Blue test is being used in an endeavour to find a satisfactory method of examination. Where a bacterial count has been reported as being unsatisfactory, advice has been given regarding methods of storage, temperature control, cleansing and sterilisation.

In 1968, the samples reported as satisfactory were 62.9% as compared with 40.8% in 1967; fairly satisfactory - 21.4% in 1968 as compared with 29.6% in 1967; and unsatisfactory - 15.7% in 1968 as compared with 29.6% in 1967.

Antibiotics in Milk

Bulk milk supplies before processing, and untreated milk sold locally, were examined for the presence of penicillin during the period under review, when 120 milk samples were tested, negative results being reported in each case.

Liquid Egg

Three samples of imported liquid egg were taken, all of which satisfied the Alpha-Amylase test.

Brucella Abortus

A small quantity of untreated milk sold mainly in cartons from vending machines, was checked regularly, as were the bulk tanker deliveries of milk to a local dairy. Of 93 samples submitted for examination for the presence of Brucella Abortus, 81 were reported negative. Appropriate action was taken with regard to the positive samples.

Ice Cream

The number of dealers registered during 1967/68 for the storage and sale of ice cream, was 654. Only one establishment manufactures ice cream and the heat treatment plant at these premises was maintained in a satisfactory manner.

178 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination during 1967/68, with the following results:

Provisional Grade 1	-	122
Provisional Grade 2	-	26
Provisional Grade 3	-	7
Provisional Grade 4	-	23

The circumstances relating to the unsatisfactory samples were investigated, when it was found that in these cases the trouble was most likely due to inefficient sterilisation of plant. Appropriate advice was given and, in each instance, subsequent samples have proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.

The stalls erected in parks, playing fields and Thames-side, and ice cream vehicles operating in the town, were regularly inspected during the period under review and conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory.

The Public Health Laboratory was transferred during 1967 from Battle Hospital to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Dr. Wood, who was the Director of the Public Health Laboratory in Reading for very many years and with whom the department had the closest co-operation, retired. He was succeeded by Dr. J. V. Dadswell, M.B., B.S., M.C.(Path).

(d) FOOD HANDLING 5,285 routine visits were paid to food premises for the purpose of inspection in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations made thereunder. It was necessary to maintain a system of priorities, and, as far as possible, special attention was given to cafes and restaurants, confectioners, meat and preparation shops and similar places where the more susceptible types of food are prepared and handled. The routine work of inspection was assisted by complaints received from the public relating to various aspects of food handling. Complaints from customers resulting in subsequent inspection and investigation, serve a very useful purpose and impress on traders and food handlers the fact that the public not only observe the practices which go on in food establishments, but are prepared to take action in the matter.

There is no doubt that the standard of design and the equipment of food premises is constantly improving. Stainless steel and plastic materials are making a big contribution to hygiene and the public are demanding higher standards by way of packaging and wrapping. Traders are recognising too, the importance of food handling Codes of Practice which have been issued by the Ministry, and more especially by large food manufacturers and distributors, who, in recent times, have considerably improved their means of communicating good hygienic principles to retailers and food handlers. Two important aspects have been particularly stressed - that of stock rotation, and the proper use of refrigeration.

Food Complaints

Some 151 complaints relating to food were received and investigated during 1967/68. Where complaints were found to be justified, the circumstances were reported to the Health Committee. Instructions to institute legal proceedings were given in 6 cases. Warnings were given in 27 cases. Details are given below:

Warnings

Pencil in sliced wrapped loaf
Rubber ring in 2-oz packet of soup
Piece of metal in confectionery
Mouldy chicken and ham pie

Warnings (continued)

Contaminated white sliced loaf
Maggots in piece of bacon
Mould in bread
Nail in fruit yoghurt
Glass in cheese and pickle roll
Mould in jam and butter sponge
Piece of metal in sweet lollipop
Glass in apricot jam
Snail in can of garden peas
Snails in bottle of beer
Stones in almond bun
Stone in fruit bun
Rancid cooking butter
Abnormal odour in steak & kidney pie
Fly in steak & kidney pie
Piece of metal in imported cheese
Cotton glove in tin of imported red plums
Misleading label on tin of imported stewed beans with pork
Splinter of wood in carton of yoghurt
Misleading label on packet of cooking butter
Unsound tin of corned beef
Mouldy pork pie
Insect in veal, ham & egg pie

Prosecutions

Cement plaster in cornish pasty.	Fined £20
Pieces of rusty metal in currant bun.	Fined £20
Mould in bread.	Fined £25, plus 5 gns. costs
Bread & margarine sold as Bread & butter.	Fined £5
Unsound can of imported Dutch luncheon meat.	Fined £40, plus 5 gns. costs
Elastic band in doughnut.	Fined £25

Health Education, Student Training, etc.

Efforts continued to establish suitable courses of lectures on food hygiene. A food hygiene course was arranged in 1967 under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association for Supervisors of School Meals Kitchens. This comprised six lectures followed by an oral examination and the award of certificates. The certificates were presented by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman F. Taylor, supported by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Alderman Mrs. A. J. Burrows. This course was most successful and it is hoped that it may be possible in the future to arrange more courses on these lines. Lectures and/or film shows were also given at various schools, the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and at courses run by the

Licensed Victuallers Association and a local company for training managers and licensees.

In addition to food hygiene education and the provision of facilities for training in practical meat inspection, a considerable amount of time was given to talks and arranging visits for students, including overseas public health inspectors, health visitors, and district and mental welfare nurses. In many cases, the subject of these talks is the scope of the public health inspector's work, although some ask for details of the work in one specialised field, usually food and drugs administration.

Talks have been given to Church groups and other association meetings, the topic chosen being food hygiene in most cases.

Routine inspections of food establishments in the town has shown that many different nationalities are employed in the food industry. To assist in communicating food hygiene instruction, appropriate notices were prepared in six languages including Chinese, Greek and Urdu, and distributed to traders concerned.

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS & DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

The above regulations came into force in 1967 and introduced improved measures of control over stalls and delivery

vehicles. A number of inspections were made of street traders' vehicles, including night visits. Two cases were reported to the Health Committee in 1967 and warnings were given.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

The numbers of food premises among the more important trades, are as follows:-

- (1) Number of premises
- (2) Number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 16
- (3) Number of premises to which regulation 19 applies
- (4) Number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 19

Type	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Bakehouses	13	13	13	13
Butchers	99	99	99	99
Cafes	91	91	91	91
Cake Shops	44	44	44	44
Fish Shops (Wet)	33	33	33	33
Fish Shops (Fried)	41	41	41	41
Greengrocers	95	95	95	95
Grocers	297	297	297	297
Licensed Premises	153	153	153	153
School Canteens	35	35	35	35
Sweet Shops	153	153	153	153
Works Canteens	29	29	29	29

Merchandise Marks Act

Food premises were regularly checked in connection with the marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale. Some 1,017 visits in 1967/68 were concerned with this matter. One case was reported to the Health Committee in 1967 and a warning was given.

(e) SAMPLING, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955 750 samples of food and drugs were procured during 1967/68 and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and report. The samples covered a cross-section of the food and drugs on sale to the public including: almonds, beans & pork, black pudding, curry - chicken, fruit, margarine, mixed peel, pain relief tablets, sausages, soup, steak & kidney pudding, throat lozenges, tongue, top of the milk, vegetables and wine.

Of the 750 samples, 15 were reported as being below standard. Details of the unsatisfactory samples, together with particulars of the action taken, are given below:-

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF SAMPLES REPORTED AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

Case No.	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
1	Natural lemon juice	Informal	Contained excess sulphur dioxide	Supplied in bulk to local food factory. Diluted to conform with the Preservatives in Food Regs. 1962 and used in the manufacture of lemon curd.
2	Non-alcoholic shandy Non-alcoholic lager	Formal Formal	Contained 1.68% proof spirit. Contained 1.7% proof spirit	Letter to retailers. Notices to be exhibited.
3	Cherry brandy flavour chocolate cream bar	Informal	Misleading illustration of cherries and brandy glass	No action.

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED
AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD (continued)

Case No.	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
4	"Bread and butter"	Formal	Falsely described	Proceedings Fined £5.
5	Stewed beans and pork	Informal	Misleading label, only contained 12% gristle	Warning sent to manufacturers
6	Cooking butter	Informal	Rancid Oliec acid 5.2%	Warning sent to manufacturers
7	Tinted dragees	Informal	Not a permitted colour. Contained blue VRS	Warning sent to manufacturers. Stocks withdrawn from sale.
8	Pork luncheon meat	Informal	Defective in meat content 77% meat	Follow-up sample satisfactory 83% meat
	Pork luncheon meat	Formal		
9	Oeufs de lump	Informal	Contained non-permitted colours	Letter of warning to importers.
10	Gari	Formal	Contained weevils & dirt	Letter of warning.
11	Dried apricots	Informal	Contained fragments of ants and other extraneous matter	Follow-up sample genuine and free from contamination.
12	Beetroot	Informal	Contained acetic acid 0.7%. Incorrectly labelled. Acetic acid should be declared	Producers agreed to amend labels.

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED
AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD (continued)

Case No.	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
13	Savoury Nibbits	Informal	Incorrectly labelled. Ingredients not declared in order of magnitude	Manufacturers agreed to amend labels.
14	Pork sausages	Informal	62% meat	Follow-up sample satisfactory. 76% meat.

Pesticide residues in foodstuffs

Reference was made in the Report for 1966, of a comprehensive investigation being carried out by the Association of Public Analysts to obtain a reliable indication of the level of pesticide residues in some of our common foodstuffs. An interim report, now published, indicates that in order to adequately cover the essential foods and to ensure economy of effort, sampling was organised on a national basis, England and Wales being divided into seven zones. Reading was included in zone 2, which covered a total population of approximately 5.9 millions. The sampling task in this area was shared between Berkshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Reading County Borough.

The Report points out that the main emphasis in the survey was placed on organo-chlorine pesticide residues, since these compounds are very persistent and are stored in human body fat. The percentage of samples containing organo-chlorine residues above the report level, was 15%. Of the three major groups of organo-chlorine compounds, Lindane (B.H.C.) occurred in the greatest number of samples. This is followed by D.D.T.

Of all the foods examined, Lard was found to contain the highest proportion of residues; some 49% of the samples contained residues above the reporting limit.

From Reading were submitted samples of bread, breakfast cereal, milk, infant foods, apples, canned food, potatoes, onions, which were examined for residues of organo-chlorine pesticides. Traceable amounts of Lindane (less than 0.2 p.p.m.) in breakfast cereal; Dieldrin (0.006 p.p.m.) in milk; Lindane (less than 0.02 p.p.m.) in crushed wheat loaf; Lindane and D.D.T. (less than 0.02 p.p.m.) in English apples, were reported. The remainder of the samples were reported as being satisfactory.

The Report emphasizes that reporting levels are much below established daily intake levels.

The Report gives details of the results relating to 2,400 samples of different kinds of foodstuffs obtained throughout England and Wales. The work is continuing and a final report will be issued in due course.

3. Air Pollution Control

DARK SMOKE It is pleasing to report that there were only three complaints concerning the emission of dark smoke from chimneys during the years 1967/1968. This speaks well of the interest and diligence of boiler-house practice being shown by management in recent times, and probably reflects to some extent the technological information and advice now being freely given by all types of fuel supplier.

No doubt the continued trend in fuel usage from solid to oil and gaseous fuel is contributing substantially to the reduction in visible smoke. A contributing factor, too, is the advance in automatic control and operation, which means that, in most plants, apart from times of soot blowing, visible chimney emissions should no longer occur.

INSTALLATION OF NEW FURNACES

The new furnaces installed during the last two years were as follows:-

Type of Furnace	Fuel	
	Oil	Gas
Warm air heaters	11	
Sectional boilers	6	
Central heating boilers	5	14
Steam boilers	12	

The number of notifications received was less than the previous years and, of these, the majority were in respect of boilers and furnaces for central heating and hot water purposes, principally in large offices and factory workshops.

Furnaces of this type seldom rate more than one million B.T.U.s per hour and are favoured by developers as they may be automatically controlled, particularly when using oil or gas, thus resulting in a saving in money and manpower. It is in connection with this type of furnace that the department is mainly concerned.

CHIMNEY HEIGHTS During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum on Chimney Heights was revised in an endeavour to deal more realistically with chimneys of small boiler installations. The new Memorandum now excludes furnaces which emit less than 3lbs of sulphur dioxide per hour.

There was continued liaison with the Planning Department, Industrialists and Boiler Consultants on the question of chimney heights. Recommendations made were found to be acceptable on both planning and public health grounds.

As was anticipated, the new Clean Air Act, 1968, introduced provisions designed to eliminate one or two of the shortcomings of the principal Act. The law as it stood allowed for chimney heights to be dealt with only at the time when plans were deposited under the requirements of the Building Regulations. It had been felt for some time that where

existing fuel-burning installations were to be substantially increased, there should be some means of requiring improved ways of effluent dispersal. The new Act which becomes operational in part on the 1st April, 1969, extends the provisions relating to chimney heights to apply to new and increased boiler plant and brings within its scope many premises previously exempted.

COMPLAINTS AND OBSERVATIONS A total of 63 complaints were received by the department during the two-year period, of which 38 concerned nuisance of a domestic origin, the remainder arising from industrial and commercial premises, or premises registered under the Alkali Acts.

The emission of oily smuts from a local hospital chimney gave rise to complaint by local residents. The Hospital Management Board were advised of the nuisance and steps are being taken by the Regional Engineer to remedy the trouble.

There were repeated complaints about the discharge of smoke and fumes from an establishment registered under the Alkali Acts. These are old-established premises and the nuisance has arisen largely as a result of the construction of a multi-storey block of offices on an adjoining site. The upper stories of the block are considerably higher than the top of the offending chimneys. There has been liaison with the Alkali Inspectorate with regard to the matter. The only satisfactory solution here appears to be re-siting of the factory.

The burning of rubbish and garden refuse on bonfires again gave rise to complaints. Whilst some measure of control can be exercised under the Clean Air Act, when a bonfire becomes a nuisance and there is a persistent offender, it is seldom found that one person only is responsible. These cases therefore are normally dealt with by way of a circular letter to residents in the area, pointing out the need for good neighbourliness and care when disposing of rubbish in this way.

A complaint was received regarding the emission of smoke from a domestic chimney in one of the Council's Smoke Control Areas. The emission was due to the inadvertent burning of household coal by a householder who was unaware of the provisions of the Order. Generally, the provisions of Smoke Control Orders are being well observed in Reading.

AIR POLLUTION INVESTIGATION The average monthly levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations at the three sites for the years 1967 and 1968 are shown in graph form on page 76 whilst the yearly figures for the six years ending 1968 are summarised in the table below:-

	SMOKE						S.O.2					
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Bristol & West House	88	71	65	51	31	34	151	97	110	134	89	87
Corporation Yard	81	67	54	39	26	18	72	57	59	52	26	52
Southcote Clinic	60	44	36	34	21	31	76	59	59	82	42	52

The national trend has been towards a reduction in smoke pollution readings and it will be seen that the readings at the three Reading stations followed a similar pattern. Although results over the short-term must be treated with some degree of reserve, the continued fall in smoke pollution is consistent with the work being done on smoke control and the known trend in fuel usage from coal to more refined fuels. So far as sulphur dioxide is concerned, the picture is a haphazard one over the last six years. Despite increased efficiency in plant operation, it is almost certain that there is more S.O.2 being discharged into the atmosphere than there was 5 or 10 years ago because of the increase in the standards of comfort now being demanded and the increase in use of oil fuels. It will be interesting to see the overall effect of S.O.2 on the atmosphere when the use of sulphur-free gas really makes ground.

Of the three sites, it is understandable that Bristol & West figures should be higher than those of the other two stations because of the concentration of fairly large heating plants in the centre of the town.

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

The position with regard to Smoke Control Areas at the end of 1968 was as follows:-

No.	Name	Area in Acres	Number of Premises	Stage	Date of operation
1	Coley Park	106	477	Confirmed	June 1st, 1959
2	Broad Street/Friar Street	15	333	Confirmed	June 1st, 1960
3	Coley Park Extension	45	155	Confirmed	December 1st, 1961
4	Burghfield Road	22	174	Confirmed	November 1st, 1961
5	Old Southcote Lodge	114	81	Confirmed	November 1st, 1961
6	Broad Street/Mill Lane	29	278	Confirmed	November 1st, 1961
7	Burghfield Road/Holybrook Crescent	30	44	Confirmed	November 1st, 1961
8	Cockney Hill/Prospect Park	234	589	Confirmed	November 1st, 1963
9	Southcote	454	1,500	Confirmed	September 1st, 1965
10	Bath Road	290	1,300	Confirmed	November 1st, 1966
11	Tilehurst	520	2,141	Confirmed	September 1st, 1968
12	Friar Street/Chatham Street	30	188	Confirmed	July 1st, 1969
13	Norcot	498	2,706	Declared	
Total		2,387	9,966		

Early in 1967 the No. 11 (Tilehurst) Smoke Control Area was declared and the Order sent to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. The Minister received one objection to the Order. In due course, the objection was withdrawn and during August the Order was confirmed.

This Smoke Control Area is the largest to be dealt with so far, being 520 acres in extent and containing 2,141 premises, the vast majority of which are dwellings. Because of the greater numbers involved, the Order did not come into operation until 1st September, 1968, which allowed about twelve months for adaptations to be carried out.

Towards the end of 1967 a detailed survey was commenced with a view to extending smoke control in the town centre. The area concerned is 30 acres in extent and includes that part of the town which is now being re-developed as the civic centre site and for the provision of part of the inner distribution road. It adjoins the western boundaries of the existing Smoke Control Areas Nos. 2 and 6, and together with these, will form a continuous area of some 74 acres. At present the area contains 188 premises, mostly commercial, but over half of these will be demolished within a few years to make way for redevelopment. The Order was confirmed by the Minister on the 5th August, 1968, and will become operative on the 1st July, 1969.

Towards the end of 1968 the No. 13 (Norcot) Smoke Control Area was declared and the Order submitted to the Minister for confirmation. The area approximates in acreage to the Tilehurst Area and contains approximately 600 more premises. It adjoins the Tilehurst Area and when it becomes operative in September, 1970, the whole of the west and south-west of the Borough, except for one small area, will be subject to Smoke Control Orders.

The cost of smoke control work continues to show an upward trend. Due to the changes in the fuel situation and the consequent widening of the householder's freedom of choice, the cost per property where adaptations took place for Area No. 11 rose quite sharply from the average cost for the previous area.

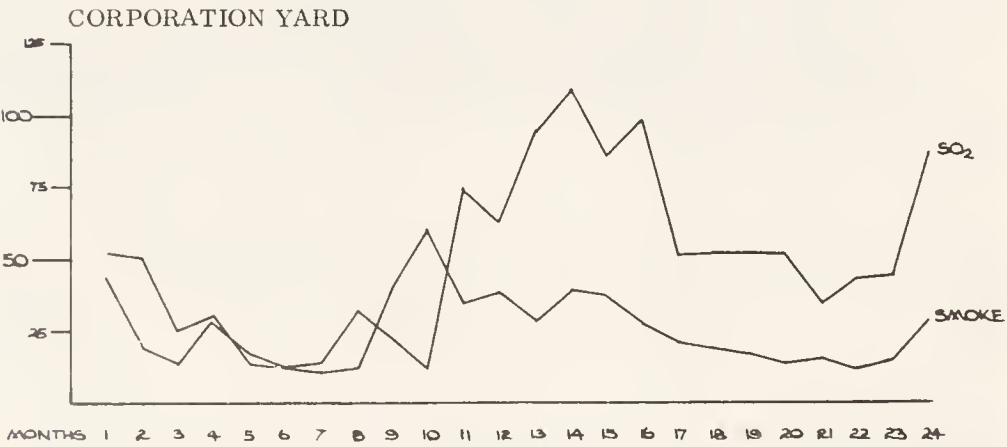
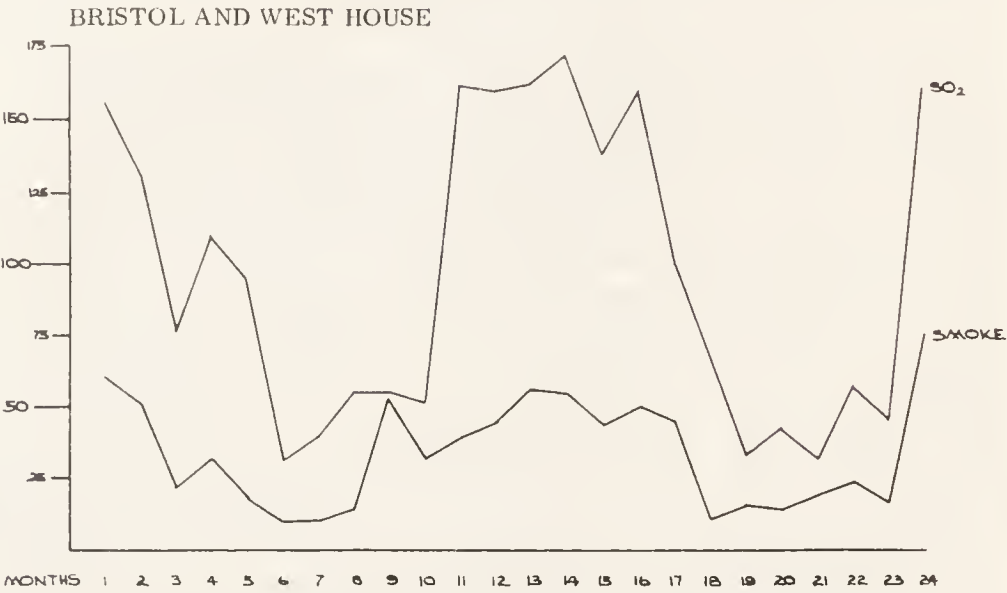
Whilst efforts are being made by fuel producers to increase supplies of low-carbonised smokeless fuels and certain cokes, the production of gas coke is falling. The demand for oil fuel and gas is increasing, so that adaptations for the future will increasingly lead towards central heating and gas and electrical appliances. The following table shows the forms of adaptation adopted by householders in the No. 11 (Tilehurst) Smoke Control Area:-

Type of Appliance Installed	Percentage of Dwellings
Open fires (replacement or adaptation)	16%
Underfloor draught fires	7%
Solid fuel room heaters	23%
Gas room heaters	50%
Electric thermal storage heaters	4%

COIN-OPERATED LAUNDERETTES The Code of Practice drawn up in 1966 to give guidance regarding the establishment and operation of Coin-operated Launderettes, has worked successfully and certainly helps in avoiding from the outset risk of nuisance from inadequately designed plant and premises.

It is understood that the Home Office is now contemplating the introduction of a Code of Practice in connection with these establishments from the point of view of hazards to the public.

AVERAGE MONTHLY SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS
 1967-1968
 MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE



Nuisances and Work under the Public Health Acts

Some 1,337 complaints were received by the department from residents in the Borough concerning many matters, including the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish in various parts of the town; nuisance from the keeping of domestic animals including chickens; the feral pigeon; fly infestations; overcrowding; housing defects and, of course, noise. Informal notices numbering 3,345 were served during 1967/68 for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, these being referred to in the section under Housing. Many formal notices were also served.

Obstructed and defective sewers and drains were the subject of an increased number of complaints, a total of 1,281 being received involving some 4,553 properties. There were 399 cases where the owners responsible for clearing the drains took advantage of the emergency sections of the Public Health Act, 1961, under which they may request the Corporation to clear and charge for the cost. This has the effect of expediting drain clearance.

The clearance of public sewers, and private drains at the request of owners, was undertaken by the Borough Surveyor's Department and the Building Department, whose work, particularly at weekends, was greatly appreciated by the public.

The employment of a technical assistant has relieved the district public health inspectors of a fair amount of routine drainage work, especially in connection with drainage complaints, and seems to have been well worthwhile.

There were complaints again about the dumping of rubbish in various parts of the town. It is difficult to say whether charging for the use of the Corporation Tip has had any effect on this problem. The practice, however, is a nuisance and not only is it detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood, but in some instances can be a factor in introducing rodent infestation on the site.

It is pleasing to report that following the discussions with the Gas Board in 1966, there were no further complaints of trouble from the Gas Works plant during the period under review.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT Some 395 visits were made during the last two years to investigate noise nuisances, the complaints received by the department falling broadly speaking into three classes:-

- (i) nuisances arising from industrial and business premises;
- (ii) nuisances from road works and building sites; and
- (iii) domestic type nuisances including the parking of vehicles.

The largest single cause of complaint arose from the use of road breakers and pneumatic drills on road works. This is a difficult problem as the noise is generated from three sources - compressed air exhaust from the drill, the impact noise of the drill against the road surface, and the noise from the compressor motor. A partial remedy, however, is the fitting of silencers and mufflers which appreciably reduce the overall noise level.

An approach was made to the various statutory undertakings such as gas, water and electricity boards to minimise emissions from this type of equipment operated under their control. Likewise, the Council included in building and civil works contracts, conditions requiring the minimising of noise emission. Subsequent to this, information was received from the Ministry that from experiments carried out at the Building Research Station, the fitting of mufflers to drills did not materially affect efficiency. The considered view now is that the use of unmuffled pneumatic drills in situations likely to cause nuisance can no longer be justified and may provide grounds for legal proceedings.

The use of screens to reduce noise has been successful on building sites. A particular incident concerned the new civic centre development where heavy equipment for pile driving was being operated in close proximity to occupied dwellings. To reduce the noise level, a lead and rubber clad screen was erected between the pile drivers and the dwellings, supplemented by the strategic parking of Corporation omnibuses. By this means the noise level in proximity to the dwellings was reduced by some 15 decibels.



NOISE SUPPRESSION APPLIED TO PILE-DRIVING

At the beginning of the year, a petition was received from residents in the Basingstoke Road area, who were being disturbed at night by the intermittent ringing of a sprinkler alarm system at a nearby factory. This trouble was eliminated by replacing the audible alarm by a flashing light alarm system.

Regular noise level readings were taken during the year along Kennet Side to assess the effectiveness of the noise suppression measures being taken by the Southern Gas Board on the Gasworks site. Numerous modifications to plant, the lagging of machinery with acoustic material, and

the cladding of trouble spots along the mains, had been undertaken on the advice of Consultants. The work has achieved appreciable improvement.

Other noise complaints of considerable diversity were received, varying from noisy dogs on one hand to such things as heavy machinery and teenage pop music on the other. The way in which a speedy, cheap and immediate remedy is sometimes found, was demonstrated with a noisy water pump on the inner distribution road site. The siting of the pump which was operating night and day, was immediately adjacent to some dwellings. In this case the noise emission was reduced to a tolerable level by the strategic positioning of plywood baffle boards and bales of straw.

One complaint relating to annoyance caused by a combination of two or three individual noise sources emanating from a small metal foundry situated in close proximity to dwellings, resulted in statutory action. The nuisance was, however, abated.

DISINFESTATION, INSANITARY PREMISES AND DISINFECTION

Altogether some 248 complaints were investigated concerning infestation by insect pests. Appropriate treatment

was given where practicable and advice as to the most suitable remedial measures was tendered as necessary. There were 62 premises treated for bed bugs during the period and 70 premises treated for fleas. Other insect pests dealt with included cockroaches, ants, silver fish, red spider and carpet beetles. The Director of the Museum has been most helpful with the identification of some of the more obscure type of insect, in order that we may carry out the proper treatment.

25 verminous persons were dealt with during the period, 13 for body lice and 12 for scabies. In each case, in addition to the personal treatment, the clothing and bedding were steam disinfected.

A number of insanitary premises required attention and the Domestic Help Service and Welfare Officers were brought in as necessary. As houses were dealt with by way of slum clearance and redevelopment, nuisance was caused by the use of some unoccupied houses by vagrants and other unauthorised persons. Despite the fact that many properties are secured against trespassers by owners, windows and doors are broken down and the properties used as doss houses. In some cases, fittings, floors and doors are damaged so that, apart from being a nuisance, the houses can become dangerous to children. Every effort was made by the Borough Surveyor's Department to secure demolition and clearing of the sites.

Some trouble was again experienced from flies in the Basingstoke Road and Coley areas.

As part of an intensified fly-control campaign and in addition to the normal routine of tip covering and spraying with insecticide, a spraying unit has been installed to enable refuse vehicles to be treated with insecticide on leaving the tip. This should minimise the possibility of flies being carried from the tip to various parts of the town.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE It is pleasing to report that the old Common Lodging House was vacated during 1967, and the site cleared.

The personnel were transferred to the new hostel which was opened in April, 1967, by the Right Worshipful the Mayor. The hostel is administered by the Salvation Army. There was constant liaison between the Salvation Army and the public health inspection staff.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES Ten inspections were made following cases of infectious disease and disinfestation was carried out as necessary.

OFFENSIVE TRADES There is now only one offensive trade established within the Borough, that of a rag and bone dealer. 14 visits were paid during the period under review and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS There is no change in the privately-owned licensed caravan site situated in the Scours Lane area. A number of applications for permission to station caravans temporarily, mainly from building contractors, were investigated during the year in conjunction with the Planning Department. Both the standard of caravan and the amenities provided for these individual sites has considerably improved over the years, and for the use for which they are intended, are quite good.

The Corporation's caravan site at Elm House is fulfilling a need for this type of accommodation in the Borough.

SWIMMING BATHS The Corporation's Central Bath was completed and came into operation towards the end of 1967. It is designed to accommodate all classes of bather from beginner to expert, and can cater specially for handicapped people.

The Baths consist of three separate pools; a main pool ranging in depth from 3ft. to 6½ft. of 146,500 gallons capacity; a diving pool - depth 12½ft. and of 107,500 gallons capacity - both with a complete change of water every four hours; and a learners' pool of 17,000 gallons capacity with a change of water every 2½ hours. Treatment includes constant filtration and chlorination. The plant is designed to maintain the water in the pools at a temperature of 74°F.

The main school baths situated at Reading School, Leighton Park School, St. Joseph's Convent, Kendrick Girls' School, Queen Anne's Girls' School and the Abbey Girls' School, continued in operation. All have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants installed.

Learner pools at the following schools continued in use - Caversham Park Primary School, Grove School, the No. IX School, Ashmead, Southcote Primary, Coley Primary, St. John's, Geoffrey Field and Grovelands Primary.

During 1967/68, 63 samples of water were submitted for examination from public swimming baths, and 150 from school swimming baths. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

DRINKING WATER 53 samples were obtained from private wells used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trading establishments. 25 samples of public mains water were found to be of a satisfactory standard.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government drew attention in a circular to the problem of lead solvency in certain types of water, based on a survey carried out by members of the Social Medical Unit of the Medical Research Council. Several samples were taken from older premises in the town where part of the water supply piping was known to be lead. The lead content was, however, reported to be negative.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES Some attention was given to public conveniences. There was the usual problem of vandalism which makes maintenance difficult for the Borough Architect's Department. Recommendations were made regarding the conveniences at Cow Lane and with respect to the possibility of providing conveniences in the Church Street, Caversham, area.

MINES AND QUARRIES ACT, 1954 Inspections were carried out during 1967 of the various quarries within the Borough to ascertain the extent of any unstable land or potential danger spots. In some cases, the land is in the process of development, levelling and grading was carried out, and the sites left in a safe condition. In other instances, the quarry faces were adequately fenced and made accessible only through gates normally kept locked.

Recommendations were made in connection with one instance where the quarry face was accessible from a public highway.

5. General

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY
PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of visits of all kinds
to premises during 1967 and 1968 under
the above-mentioned Act, was 5,924.

Particulars relating to the number of premises registered, together with
the number of general inspections made to these premises, is shown below:-

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year (4)
Offices	162 (63)	785 (744)	305 (125)
Retail shops	158 (58)	963 (951)	925 (200)
Wholesale shops, warehouses	10 (5)	71 (74)	23 (14)
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	37 (14)	175 (175)	117 (21)
Fuel storage depots		6 (7)	1 (1)

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED
PREMISES:-

4,529 (1,395)

(Figures for 1967 are shown in parenthesis)

Contraventions

Routine inspections again brought to light numerous contraventions of the provisions of the Act. Generally, however, these were not of a serious nature and there was a ready response on the part of occupiers and those concerned in meeting the requirements of the Department. There were no prosecutions under this Act during 1967/68.

Certificates of Exemption

Four Certificates of Exemption were granted from the requirements of the Act during the period under review.

Accidents

82 accidents were reported over the period 1967/68, none of which were fatal. Enquiries showed the main causes of accidents to be as follows:-

- (a) handling goods;
- (b) falls on or from fixed stairs;
- (c) falls on or from ladders or step ladders;
- (d) falls from one level to another;
- (e) strain through lifting or carrying;
- (f) hand tools;
- (g) falls on same level;
- (h) striking against object or person;
- (i) power driven machinery in motion;
- (j) non-power machinery in motion;
- (k) non-power machinery at rest;
- (l) striking against stationary vehicle;
- (m) burns.

Fencing of dangerous machinery

The section of the Act relating to dangerous machinery involved a great deal of work. Advice was given on the fencing of conveyors, hoists and lifts, pulley-driven machinery and baling machines. Problems relating to waste disposal units, food grating machines, bandsaws and food slicing machines, and sterilising units, which had more than local implications, were referred to the Deputy Superintendent Inspector of Factories with a view to standards being laid down which could be applied at national level.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 A total of 335 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors to factories during 1967/68, of which there were 668 on the register. Although a number of contraventions were noted in respect of which appropriate action was taken, conditions generally were reasonably satisfactory.

The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with section 110 of the Act, returned 77 for 1967 and 96 for 1968, who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 16 were referred to other Local Authorities in 1967 and 1968, 61 being in the Borough in 1967 and 80 in 1968, and the premises were visited and inspected by the Public Health Inspectors.

The plans of proposed factories and similar buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Building Byelaws, were examined by this Department. Examination of the circumstances in the planning stage is most useful in preventing or anticipating problems arising from particular types of establishment. It enables us also to deal with the fuel and fuel-burning installations in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Attention was paid to the conditions in canteens and kitchens attached to factories in the town, with particular reference to the standard of hygiene, amenities and general conditions.

The tables below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Labour and National Service:-

PREMISES	Number on Register		Inspections		Number of written notices	
	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968
Factories without mechanical power	50	49	11	12	-	-
Factories with mechanical power	618	602	141	171	6	8
	668	651	152	183	6	8

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found:							
	Found		Remedied		Referred to H.M. Inspector		Referred by H.M. Inspector	
	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968
Sanitary Conveniences:								
Insufficient	2	1	2	1	-	-	2	1
Unsuitable or defective	3	7	3	7	-	-	3	6
Not separate for sexes	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
	6	8	6	8	-	-	6	7

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Two establishments were inspected and approved during the period under review in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

One establishment was inspected and approved in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are seven premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. 20 inspections were made of these premises and all samples of filling materials submitted for examination by a prescribed analyst, were reported as satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951 Five licences were issued under the above Act and a number of routine inspections made of the premises, all of which were reasonably satisfactory.

THE NIGHTDRESSES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967 Three children's nightdresses were submitted for examination. Two complied with the appropriate regulations. In the other case, the sewing threads making up the garment were not of suitable material. A warning letter was sent in this case.

CLUBS AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT Clubs and places of public entertainment were subject to inspection, although it is not possible to give the attention one would like to these establishments. The arrangement whereby comment is made on the amenities and general public health aspect of clubs and similar premises before consideration is given to applications for licence by the Licensing Justices, continued satisfactorily. This arrangement ensures that, as far as possible, the health aspects of premises are satisfactory before they come into operation. Except in the case of the special type of premises which have to be registered, action cannot generally be taken under the Food and Drugs Act by the Health Authority until premises are actually occupied.

RODENT CONTROL: PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 Warfarin was continued to be used for the eradication of rats and mice. This is still a most effective rodenticide, and there is no evidence of any rats in this area developing immunity towards Warfarin. There was some evidence of fairly heavy infestations in three places in the town, but, on each occasion, extensive baiting with continued surveillance for some two to three weeks, brought the infestations under control. Frequent checks have been made for large infestations at the refuse tip and routine visits have been made to building sites and other places where infestation may be likely to occur, in order to prevent any trouble in this respect.

The main sewers received annual treatments. This work was carried out during Spring and Autumn, and the results of the sewer treatment continues to be most encouraging. Some sections of the town have shown no take for several years, and in these areas approximately 10% of the man-holes have been treated, in order to confirm that there is no infestation present.

The details of the sewer treatment are as follows:-

<u>Manholes tested</u>	<u>Manholes showing take</u>
393	42

The treatment of domestic premises for the eradication of rats and mice is carried out free of charge, but payment is required for work carried out in business premises.

OTHER PESTS In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, complaints were investigated concerning wasps, pigeons, squirrels, bats, etc. Altogether 296 wasps nests were dealt with during the period under review.

Intensified efforts were made to control the feral pigeon. Certain selected sites have been used for trapping and frequent treatments have been carried out at intervals throughout 1967/68. Altogether some 1,376 pigeons were destroyed. Some effort has been made to control the pigeons on one site in the town by way of a stupefying bait, for which a licence has been granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, but in this case the treatment was largely unsuccessful, probably because of the alternative food supplies easily available to the pigeons. Unfortunately, there are still far too many well-intentioned citizens who feed the pigeons in the town with scraps of food, without realising the considerable damage caused to the buildings by the presence of the birds. It is hoped to increase the number of trapping points in the coming year and, if circumstances allow, to intensify pigeon control generally.

During the financial years 1966/67 and 1967/68, the income for chargeable pest control work was £391 and £463 respectively, compared with £274 for 1965/66.

RODENT CONTROL

PROPERTIES	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
(1) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	2,858	7
(a) Number found to be infested by rats	1,475	6
(b) Number found to be infested by mice	1,023	-
(2) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,100	12
(a) Number found to be infested by rats	-	-
(b) Number found to be infested by mice	-	-

SEWER MAINTENANCE

No. of manholes tested: 393 No. of manholes showing take: 42

Housing

I am indebted to Mr. W. V. Smith, ARIBA, Borough Architect, for the following information: In 1967 and 1968, 549 dwellings, including houses, flats and bungalows were completed and handed over to the Council. Contracts for 121 dwellings and 121 garages at Bulmershe, 14 old persons flats and five garages at Granville Road, Southcote, 28 old persons flats and one Warden's house at Parkhurst, 14 old persons flats and five disabled persons bungalows with built-in garages at Southern Hill, 60 dwellings consisting of 20 three-bedroom houses, 24 two-bedroom three-storey flats, 16 two-storey old persons flats, 10 garages integral with houses and 28 garages in separate blocks at Windermere Road, 14 old persons flats and six garages at Lyndhurst Road, 69 dwellings and 69 garages at Barnsdale Road, 24 houses and 24 garages at Surley Row, and 10 dwellings and 6 garages for old persons at Circuit Lane were completed.

The following contracts were let and work started on the various sites:

One hundred and twenty nine dwellings, Grove Hill House Estate (Phase I). Incorporated in this contract are nine two-storey houses, 12 three-storey flats, 26 four-storey flats and maisonettes, 84 garages in separate blocks and 30 car spaces in a two-storey car park.

Twenty eight dwellings at Grove Hill House Estate, Phase II. Incorporated in this Contract are 16 two-storey three-bedroom houses, 12 three-storey two-bedroom flats and 27 garages in separate blocks.

Dee Road Estate - 919 dwellings, six shops, four two-storey car parks for 261 cars and 484 garages in separate blocks. Included in this contract are 487 industrialised buildings comprising four one-person flats, 223 houses, 102 three-storey flats and 158 five-storey maisonettes. Also incorporated in the contract are six disabled persons' bungalows with built-in garages.

Thirty dwellings at Howth Drive, Bulmershe Estate consisting of 23 two-storey three-bedroom houses, 3 two-storey four-bedroom houses, 2 one-bedroom bungalows, 2 two-storey bedsitting room-flats and 30 garages in separate blocks.

Water

I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Studholme, AMICE, Chief Engineer of the Thames Valley Water Board, for the following information: The Borough of Reading is supplied with water derived from two sources, 1. the River Kennet and 2. Wells and boreholes at Pangbourne. Apart from local pressure difficulties experienced, the supply has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality.

The underground supply from the chalk at Pangbourne is clear and bright in appearance, of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, and is given precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment. The surface source shows considerable variation in quality, being affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions.

At both river works the water is passed through roughing filters of coarse material; at Southcote the water is then chlorinated, dosed with aluminium sulphate and passed through pressure filters, while at Fobney, slow sand filters are used to bring about the required degree of purification, and super chlorination followed by partial dechlorination completes the treatment at this plant.

As may be seen from the typical analyses, little natural fluoride is present and tests for lead, carried out towards the end of the year, indicate that the water is not plumbo-solvent.

Frequent tests for residual chlorine were made at the pumping stations and routine samples, as set out below, were taken during 1967 and 1968.

No instances of unusual contamination occurred during this period.

1968 - (1967 figures in brackets)

Sample Point	No. of Samples	Sample Point	No. of Samples
River Kennet, Raw Water	12 (13)	Bath Road Reservoir	259 (255)
Fobney Filtrates, Unchlorinated	55 (52)	Emmer Green Reservoir	2 (3)
Fobney Final Water	55 (62)	Tower	2 (4)
Southcote " "	57 (29)	Tilehurst Reservoir	3 (3)
Pangbourne Raw Water	28 (25)	" Tower	2 (3)
" Final Water	29 (33)	Distribution System (Reading area)	36 (38)

RIVER KENNET SOURCE AND PANGBOURNE WELLS AND BOREHOLES SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

1968 - (Details relating to 1967 shown in brackets)

Chemical	River Kennet Source		Pangbourne Source	
	Raw Water	Final Water	Raw Water	Final Water
Appearance	Slightly opalescent with a little colour and suspended matter	Clear and light	Clear and light	Clear and light
Colour (Hazen)	Filt. 12 (8)	Less than 5	Nil	Nil
Odour	Faint, earthy	Nil	Nil	Faint (Nil) chlorinous
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	7.5 (12)	Nil (less than 1)	Nil (less than 1)	Nil (less than 1)

Continued

Chemical	River Kennet Source				Pangbourne Source			
	Raw Water		Final Water		Raw Water		Final Water	
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C	440	(430)	440	(430)	510	(510)	510	(510)
pH	8.1	(8.1)	7.8	(7.7)	7.05	(7.0)	7.0	(7.0)
Free carbon dioxide	Trace	(Do)	3	(4)	37	(37)	38	(35)
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.025	(0.030)	0.000	(0.000)	0.000	(0.000)	0.000	(0.000)
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.125	(0.110)	0.055	(0.050)	0.005	(0.010)	0.005	(0.005)
Nitrate (N)	0.01	(0.01)	Absent		Absent		Absent	
Permanganate value (4 hrs. at 27°C)	1.17	(1.05)	0.50	(0.45)	0.07	(0.10)	0.05	(0.03)
Iron	0.15	(0.10)	Less than 0.02		Nil	(0.03)	0.01	(0.01)
Other metals	Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent	
Carbonate hardness CaCO ₃	220	(230)	212	(230)	250	(252)	250	(252)
Non-carbonate hardness CaCO ₃	35	(25)	35	(20)	45	(40)	45	(40)
Total hardness CaCO ₃	255	(255)	247	(250)	295	(292)	295	(292)
Total dissolved solids	290	(295)	280	(290)	345	(350)	345	(350)
Chloride (Cl)	15.7	(14.7)	16.3	(15.0)	13.3	(14.5)	13.5	(14.5)
Nitrate (N)	3.3	(2.6)	3.2	(2.6)	5.0	(5.0)	5.2	(5.0)
Sulphate (SO ₄)	25	(15)	25	(16)	10.5	(13)	10.5	(13)
Calcium (Ca)	98.5	(100)	96.5	(98.5)	116	(115)	116	(115)
Magnesium (Mg)	2.0	(1)	1.5	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Sodium (Na)	10	(10)	10	(10)	9.0	(9.3)	9.0	(9.3)
Potassium (K)	2.4	(2)	2.3	(2)	1.8	(1.3)	1.8	(1.3)
Silica	12	(12)	11	(12)	20	(17)	20	(17)
Phosphate	0.3	(0.4)	0.2	(0.4)	0.05	(0.06)	0.05	(0.06)
Natural Fluoride	Less than 0.1	(0.1)	Less than 0.1	(0.1)	Less than 0.1	Less than (0.1)	Less than 0.1	Less than (0.1)
Plate counts per ml. on agar								
1 day @ 37°C	1,200	(2,000)	12	(10)	1	(0)	0	(0)
3 days @ 20°C	8,000	(12,000)	10	(7)	6	(2)	4	(0)

Continued

Chemical	River Kennet Source		Pangbourne Source	
	Raw Water	Final Water	Raw Water	Final Water
Coliform Count Present In	0.01 mls. (0.01 mls.)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Absent from	0.001 mls. (0.01 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)
Probable No. per 100 mls.	5,000 (6,500)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
E. Coli Count Present In	0.1 mls. (0.1 mls.)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Absent from	0.01 mls. (0.01 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)	100 mls. (100 mls.)
Probable No. per 100 mls.	1,400 (800)	0 (0)	0 (0)	- (-)

The number of houses in the Borough, together with other premises having domestic occupation supplied with water by the Board, increased by 668 to 40,677 during the year ended 31st March, 1968. The supply to one of these houses was by stand-pipe, and my records show that there are 12 houses within the Borough supplied from wells and taking no supply from the Board's mains.

The average daily consumption per head of population throughout the whole of the Board's area of supply during the year ended 31st March, 1968, was 44.0 gallons for domestic and 13.9 gallons for non-domestic use, a total average of 57.9 gallons per head.

Within the Borough, one major capital work - a 12" main from Rose Kiln Lane southwards down Basingstoke Road and Whitley Wood Lane to the Borough boundary and beyond - was completed during 1967. During 1968 various improvements and alterations in the distribution system were made especially in the area covered by the redevelopment of the town centre.

Collection of Refuse and Sewage Disposal

I am indebted to Mr. K. H. Thorpe, B.Sc. (Eng), AMICE, MI. Mun. E, AMTPI, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information:

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION The collection of house refuse has continued on a once weekly basis. Additional collections have been given to special premises such as hospitals, multi-storey flats, cafes and food shops in the town area. Many special collections of a miscellaneous nature have been made from both domestic and trade premises, either on a chargeable basis or, in some cases, free of charge. The service has been maintained by 13 compression type vehicles, one side loading vehicle and approximately 70 employees.

The following table shows the total quantity of refuse for disposal, (i. e. household plus trade refuse).

Quarter Ended	1967		1968	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March	12,500	26,020	12,100	25,300
30th June	12,000	25,000	11,900	24,750
30th September	12,000	25,000	11,850	24,800
31st December	12,900	26,660	12,150	25,450
TOTALS	49,400	102,680	48,000	100,300

Salvage Collection

A free weekly collection of paper and cardboard is made from approximately 600 trade premises in this Borough. This service is maintained by two panttechnicons, two drivers and two mates.

Trade Refuse

Trade refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse, and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the refuse tip, provided they pay the following charges: Up to and including one ton 5/-, from one to six tons 10/-, over six tons £1.

STREET CLEANSING This service has been carried out by five sweeping gangs with electric trucks, eight men operating four double beat systems and five men a single beat system. Three of the single beat men operate in the town area in order to keep it clean. In addition, the main town centre is swept nightly (Saturday excepted) by a sweeping gang with electric truck. Roadside bins are still maintained at the scheduled number and these bins, together with the electric trucks, are emptied at regular intervals each day by a parent

vehicle. Overtime is worked on Saturday and Sunday to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the approximate mileage of the vehicles.

Quarter Ended	1967		1968	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March	950	3,005	900	2,200
30th June	850	3,060	800	2,800
30th September	850	3,043	800	3,000
31st December	950	3,020	900	2,000
TOTALS	3,600	12,128	3,400	10,000

Street Gulleys

In 1967 a total of 18,205 gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by a mechanically operated vehicle. In 1968 9,884 gulleys were emptied. Sediment tanks and oil separator tanks etc., are cleared for private traders on a rechargeable basis.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING All domestic cesspools are emptied "free of charge" by a mechanical emptying vehicle on a rota schedule. Since the charge was removed for this service, requests for more frequent emptyings still persist. Effluent is also taken from tanks situated at certain factories within the Borough.

SEWAGE PURIFICATION The volume of sewage treated increased from an average of 9,250,000 gallons per day in 1967 to 9,670,000 gallons in 1968. The total synthetic detergent load in the sewage continued to steadily increase and appears to be a major threat to the sludge digestion process.

The construction of the new sludge drying plant started in April, 1968 and it is expected that it will come into use in August, 1969.

SEWERAGE

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
New houses and flats completed (not including Corporation houses)	412	398
Houses not on main drainage	240	216
Cesspools eliminated	1	24

New sewer to eliminate cesspools:

Chapel Hill.

New sewers to eliminate flooding:

Scours Lane, Norcot Road, Oxford Road, Kentwood Hill etc.

New sewers to serve new development:

St. Peter's Avenue foul sewer and sewers in Inner Distribution Road.
Portman Road (off Wigmore Lane industrial development).

SWIMMING AND SLIPPER BATHS In 1967 the Corporation appointed a
Manager to administer all the public
bathing establishments within the Borough. Owing to a defect in the ceiling
of the new Central Swimming Pool with was not available to the public until
July, 1967.

The number of persons using the swimming and slipper baths was as
follows:

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
<u>Arthur Hill Bath</u>		
Swimming	180,437	135,324
Slipper	5,320	4,770
<u>Central Swimming Pool</u> (opened July, 1967)	179,795	422,849
<u>King's Meadow</u>	33,423	10,408
<u>Coley</u>	11,183	4,700
<u>Jesse Terrace - Slipper</u>	10,611	9,699
<u>West Reading Bathing Station</u>	5,879	2,259

Swimming

The opening of the new Central Swimming Pool in Battle Street has affected
attendances at other pools, but the number attending pools has increased
from 410,716 in 1967 to 575,340 in 1968. Until the Central Swimming Pool
was opened, the Arthur Hill Bath was the only Public Indoor Pool in the
area.

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Table 1. CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH (Registrar-General's Return). 1967

CAUSE OF DEATH	All ages	All ages	Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS												75 and over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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Table 1a. CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH (Registrar-General's Return). 1968

CAUSE OF DEATH	All ages	All ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		AGE IN YEARS												75 and over													
		All ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		1-4			5-14			15-24			25-34			35-44			45-54			55-64			65-74			75 and over	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
B4 Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B5 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B6 Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late Effects	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B18 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	18	13	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	58	46	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	28	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(5) Leukaemia	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	121	61	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	8	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B23 Anaemias	6	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(3) Mental Disorders	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B24 Meningitis	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	11	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	23	6	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B27 Hypertensive Disease	17	8	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	333	194	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	97	32	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	159	68	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	53	21	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B31 Influenza	9	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B32 Pneumonia	169	75	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	93	76	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B33(2) Asthma	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	14	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B34 Peptic Ulcer	9	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	12	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	11	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	7	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-urinary system	13	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B40 Abortion	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B41 Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B46(10) Diseases of Musculo-skeletal system	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B42 Congenital Anomalies	16	12	4	6	2	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	7	4	3	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	9	6	3	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B45 Symptoms and ill-defined Conditions	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	19	15	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE48 All Other Accidents	26	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE49 Suicide and Self-inflicted injuries	16	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE50 All Other External Causes	10	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	1,428	725	703	17	8	7	8	2	5	7	9	10	6	4	1	7	19	13	68	26	124	73	221	158	253	379	652	399	652	399	652	399	652

Table 2. INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1916

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth rate/ 1,000 population	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death Rate/ 1,000 Population
								Sepsis	Others	Rate/1,000 Births		
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	-	-	4	-	2.2	1,230	14.46
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	-	-	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	-	-	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	-	-	-	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	-	-	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	-	-	-	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	-	-	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	22.75	38.84	-	-	-	1,344	11.61
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	23.00	37.48	-	-	-	1,358	11.5
1960	118,110	2,064	17.48	42	20.35	17.14	29.52	-	1	0.48	1,306	11.06
1961	121,040	2,190	18.09	40	18.26	15.29	25.63	-	-	-	1,393	11.51
1962	121,420	2,210	18.20	45	20.36	19.52	31.06	-	1	0.44	1,508	12.42
1963	121,450	2,330	19.18	45	19.31	22.24	30.21	-	-	-	1,484	12.22
1964	123,310	2,522	20.45	55	21.81	17.15	32.74	-	-	-	1,278	10.36
1965	124,470	2,475	19.88	51	20.61	17.86	30.95	-	1	0.40	1,352	10.86
1966	125,230	2,521	20.13	41	16.26	16.39	24.19	-	3	1.17	1,398	11.16
1967	126,380	2,375	18.79	25	10.53	14.52	21.16	-	-	-	1,318	10.43
1968	127,330	2,380	18.69	40	16.81	16.53	23.97	-	2	0.83	1,428	11.21

Table 3. INFANT WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES - 1968
(1967 figures in brackets)

Clinic	No. Sessions 1 week	No. Sessions	Attendances			Total attendances	Average attending
			Under 1 year	1-2	2-5		
Elm Park Hall	2 (3)	101 (154)	3,407 (3,986)	678 (963)	381 (456)	4,466 (5,405)	44 (34)
Tilehurst	2 (2)	103 (100)	4,070 (3,742)	1,363 (1,461)	1,152 (1,007)	6,585 (6,210)	64 (60)
Star Lane	2 (2)	104 (102)	2,810 (2,961)	1,320 (590)	407 (392)	4,537 (3,943)	44 (30)
Whitley	2 (2)	100 (102)	3,046 (3,150)	515 (806)	378 (389)	3,939 (4,345)	39 (41)
Tyndale Free Church Hall	1 (1)	52 (52)	1,464 (1,221)	318 (267)	254 (154)	2,036 (1,642)	39 (31)
West Memorial Institute	2 (2)	101 (103)	2,484 (2,870)	757 (993)	561 (551)	3,802 (4,414)	37 (42)
Park Institute	2 (2)	100 (98)	3,521 (3,264)	746 (687)	565 (509)	4,832 (4,460)	48 (45)
Emmer Green	1 (1)	51 (52)	1,686 (454)	584 (472)	492 (467)	2,762 (1,393)	54 (26)
Southcote	2 (2)	100 (101)	2,647 (2,965)	898 (859)	723 (713)	4,268 (4,537)	43 (44)
Norcot	1 (2)	51 (100)	1,370 (1,600)	519 (455)	422 (269)	2,311 (2,324)	45 (23)
Coley	2 (2)	102 (100)	1,801 (2,014)	474 (604)	423 (500)	2,698 (3,122)	26 (31)

Table 4. INFANT WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES SINCE 1953

Year	No. Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total attendances
1953	716	1,291	39,694
1954	804	1,427	40,972
1955	845	1,496	39,105
1956	895	1,658	41,356
1957	887	1,686	41,494
1958	910	1,856	40,395
1959	895	1,774	39,207
1960	912	1,827	38,000
1961	905	1,962	39,445
1962	917	1,984	38,861
1963	919	2,033	36,116
1964	1,030	2,225	41,313
1965	1,048	2,167	43,012
1966	1,043	2,332	43,172
1967	1,065	2,302	41,795
1968	1,067	2,346	42,236

Table 5. IMMUNISATION FIGURES - 1967

CLINIC	SESSIONS	No. of children who completed a course of immunisation against	DIPHTHERIA	DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH	WHOOPING COUGH	TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA & TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS	POLIOMYELITIS	QUADRILIN	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against	DIPHTHERIA	DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH	WHOOPING COUGH	TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA & TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS	POLIOMYELITIS	QUADRILIN	TOTALS
Grovelands	13		-	-	-	8	14	66	88	-		2	-	-	-	62	43	76	-	349
Whitley	28		-	-	-	7	23	176	228	-		1	-	-	2	143	132	158	-	870
Tilehurst	26		-	-	-	9	16	156	173	-		1	-	-	-	138	101	136	-	730
Caversham (Queen's Rd)	13		-	-	-	11	22	41	69	-		-	-	-	-	75	42	87	-	347
School (Queen's Rd)	26		-	-	-	5	20	121	141	-		2	-	-	-	91	94	90	-	564
Southcote	23		-	-	-	1	4	100	112	-		1	-	-	1	116	103	109	-	547
Emmer Green	13		-	-	-	6	3	41	55	-		1	-	-	-	77	44	78	-	305
Norcot	13		-	-	-	1	10	62	72	-		-	-	-	1	82	51	82	-	361
Coley	13		-	-	-	5	3	71	80	-		-	-	-	-	34	73	31	-	297
Carried out by General Practitioners			-	-	-	23	15	1583	1493	10		1	-	-	26	402	792	749	5	5099
TOTALS			-	-	-	76	130	2417	2511	10		9	-	-	30	1220	1475	1596	5	9469

Table 5a. IMMUNISATION FIGURES - 1968

CLINIC	SESSIONS	No. of children who completed a course of immunisation against:	DIPHTHERIA	DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH	WHOOPING COUGH	TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA & TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS	POLIOMYELITIS	QUADRILLIN	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against:	DIPHTHERIA	DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH	WHOOPING COUGH	TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA & TETANUS	DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS	POLIOMYELITIS	QUADRILLIN	TOTALS
Grovelands	13		-	-	-	7	16	77	101	-		-	-	-	1	41	51	52	-	346
Whitley	25		2	-	-	2	31	182	229	-		1	-	-	3	244	145	204	-	1043
Tilehurst	25		-	-	-	-	20	137	158	-		-	-	-	9	156	117	143	-	719
Caversham (Queen's Rd)	13		-	-	-	11	29	50	85	-		-	-	-	1	75	35	78	-	364
School (Queen's Rd)	25		-	-	-	10	34	135	185	-		1	-	-	3	100	78	96	-	642
Southcote	25		-	-	-	2	7	74	86	-		-	-	-	2	92	93	94	-	450
Emmer Green	12		-	-	-	5	6	60	64	-		1	-	-	1	65	41	73	-	316
Norcot	13		-	-	-	4	9	61	74	-		-	-	-	-	56	55	50	-	309
Coley	13		-	-	-	-	9	61	78	-		1	-	-	4	56	50	60	-	319
Carried out by General Practitioners			-	-	-	24	12	1065	1042	-		-	-	-	31	502	723	793	-	4192
TOTALS			2	-	-	65	173	1092	2102	-		4	-	-	55	1387	1388	1643	-	8700

Table 6. VACCINATION FIGURES - 1967

Clinic	Sessions	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Total	
Grovelands	13	6	30	12	3	14	9	2	76	(9)
Whitley	26	49	40	8	10	17	18	4	146	(4)
Tilehurst	26	-	-	-	10	88	20	6	124	(8)
Caversham (Queen's Rd)	13	-	-	-	-	36	2	-	38	-
School (Queen's Rd)	26	-	-	1	6	76	17	3	103	(7)
Southcote	23	17	45	8	14	16	4	10	114	(13)
Emmer Green	13	-	1	-	-	36	4	3	44	(1)
Norcot	13	-	-	-	-	35	5	3	43	(1)
Coley	13	-	-	-	10	55	8	4	77	(8)
Carried out by General Practitioners		9	18	29	51	566	257	125	1055	(96)
TOTALS		81	134	58	104	939	344	160	1820	(147)

Figures in parentheses denote re-vaccination

Table 6a. VACCINATION FIGURES - 1968

Clinic	Sessions	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Total
Grovelands	13	6	58	7	6	9	8	2	96 (10)
Whitley	25	61	45	5	23	24	19	6	183 (6)
Tilehurst	25	-	-	-	-	86	9	2	97 (4)
Caversham (Queen's Rd)	13	-	-	-	-	31	12	4	47 (1)
School (Queen's Rd)	25	-	-	-	3	77	30	9	119 (10)
Southcote	25	18	44	1	8	14	4	1	90 (9)
Emmer Green	12	-	-	-	-	35	4	4	43 (3)
Norcot	13	-	-	-	-	50	5	-	55 (1)
Coley	13	-	-	1	-	50	9	-	60 (2)
Carried out by General Practitioners	-	2	4	18	42	478	230	165	939 (131)
TOTALS		87	151	32	82	854	330	193	1729 (177)

Figures in parentheses denote re-vaccination

Table 7. PREMATURE BIRTHS
(as adjusted by any notifications transferred in or out of the area)

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS 1968 (1967 figures in brackets)												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS	
	Born in hospital						Born at home or in a nursing home							
							Nursed entirely at home or in a nursing home			Transferred to hospital on or before 28th day				
	Total births	Died			Total births	Died			Total births	Died			Born	
Within 24 hours of birth		In 1 and under 7 days	In 7 and under 28 days	Within 24 hours of birth		In 1 and under 7 days	In 7 and under 28 days	Within 24 hours of birth		In 1 and under 7 days	In 7 and under 28 days	In hos- pital	At home or in a nursing home	
1. 2lb.3oz or less	6 (3)	3 (3)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	6 (3)	- (-)
2. Over 2lb. 3oz up to and inc- luding 3lb. 4 oz	9 (9)	1 (3)	2 (1)	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	4 (5)	1 (-)
3. Over 3lb. 4 oz up to and inc- luding 4lb. 6oz	22 (27)	1 (2)	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (4)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)	6 (5)	2 (-)
4. Over 4lb. 6oz up to and inc- luding 4lb. 15oz	33 (31)	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	5 (6)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)	2 (2)	- (-)
5. Over 4lb. 15oz up to and inc- luding 5lb. 8oz	53 (35)	- (-)	2 (-)	- (-)	42 (40)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (6)	- (-)	- (-)	6 (3)	- (-)
6. Total - 1968 1967	123 (105)	6 (8)	7 (1)	2 (-)	49 (50)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (8)	1 (-)	- (1)	24 (18)	3 (-)

Table 8. COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR TUBERCULOSIS CASES
AND DEATHS

Year	Population	No. cases notified		Notification Rate/ 100,000 Pop.		No. Deaths		Death Rate/ 1,000 Population	
		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1940	114,600	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16
1945	108,830	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11
1950	115,700	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03
1955	118,100	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01
1960	118,110	68	7	57.57	5.93	7	-	0.06	-
1965	124,470	47	10	37.76	8.03	4	-	0.03	-
1966	125,230	32	8	25.55	6.39	8	-	0.06	-
1967	126,380	41	9	32.44	7.12	-	1	-	0.01
1968	127,330	40	10	31.41	7.85	4	1	0.03	0.01

Table 9. OUT-PATIENT STATISTICS OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST
1967 & 1968

								1967	1968
Cases of tuberculosis first seen -									
(including notified and observation cases)	...	...						115	116
Patients notified for the first time	...	...	...	...				52	50
" " of whom were sputum positive	...							29	32
B.C.G. vaccination (including schools)	...	...	...					158	220
Cases sputum positive during last 12 months	...	...						34	35
Deaths, all causes, notified cases only	...	...	...					14	11
Non-tuberculous cases first diagnosed during year	...							824	711
Number of clinic sessions held during year	...	...						431	421
Contacts first seen during year	...	...	...	...				579	617
Contacts notified during year	...	...	...	...	...			11	6
Notified cases of tuberculosis on clinic register									
as at 31st December	...	...	...	...	...	...		606	704
<u>Summary of Attendances:</u>									
New cases:	Consultations	...	...	...	...	...		1,012	858
	Contacts	...	...	...	...	...		579	617
	X-ray Clinic	...	...	...	...	...		3,471	3,516
Total new cases	...	...	...	...	...	...		5,062	4,991
Reattendances	...	...	...	...	...	...		4,787	4,760
	Total Attendances	...						9,849	9,751

Table 10. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1967

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											
	At all ages	Age Groups										
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	38	1	5	12	17	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	86	3	25	15	30	8	2	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1150	54	346	371	359	11	8	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	7	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peurperal Pyrexia	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid fevers (excluding paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-

Table 10 (continued)

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											
	Age Groups											Unknown
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over		
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relapsing Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	4	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	41	-	1	-	9	3	4	11	11	2	-	-
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	2	-	-
TOTALS	1370	58	377	399	415	27	38	29	16	11	-	-

Table 10a. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1968, CLASSIFIED IN ALL AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified										
	At all ages	Age Groups									
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown
Scarlet Fever	14	-	-	4	6	1	3	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	37	6	11	8	6	6	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	83	5	27	27	21	3	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Periperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

Table 10a (continued)

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified										
	At all ages	Age Groups									
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relapsing Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	10	-	1	1	2	2	-	3	1	-	-
Acute Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	40	-	-	1	2	1	3	16	10	7	-
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	2	1	-
TOTALS	206	11	39	41	37	15	11	28	14	10	-

